THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
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PTI

GROUNDED PLANE WITH 300 INDIANS TAKES OFF FROM FRANCE

A Romanian aircraft carrying 303 passengers, mostly Indians, on Monday left for India four days after they were detained by the French authorities at an airport near Paris over suspected "human trafficking." "The plane, which had been grounded since Thursday, departed shortly after 14:30 p.m (local time),' BFM TV, a French news broadcast television and radio network, reported | P11

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Skill Development, Enterpreneurship and Livelihood (SDEL) Department

ASSURANCE OF A BRIGHT FUTURE TO
OUR YOUTH

Yuva Nidhi

Monthly Unemployment Allowance

₹3000 Per month for Graduates

₹1500 Per month for Diploma Holders

Until getting employment the amount of **Rs. 3000/-** given by the State Government will help engineering graduates like me. It will also help in the expenses for filling up applications to jobs

- Bhumika S. Thagaduru

I have finished my Engineering and am in search of a job. The amount of **Rs. 3,000/-** given by the Government will help me with my monthly expenses for the next two years. My heartfelt thanks to the Government

- Nagaraj

Due to financial difficulties I have to find work. As a degree holder I am searching for a job and the **Rs. 3000/-** given by the Government monthly is helping to manage the household expenses and given me financial independence. My sincere thanks to Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah

- Keerthana

"Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah led Government is striving towards the progress of the youth of Karnataka by supporting them with financial assistance till they gain employment or upto 2 years under the Yuvanidhi Scheme."

Registration for YUVANIDHI SCHEME starts from 26 December 2023

Dr. Sharana Prakash Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development Entrepreneurship and Livelihood giving information about the Yuvanidhi Scheme.

Candidates who have passed degree / diploma in 2023 and have been unemployed for 6 months and are residents of Karnataka.

Documents needed for registration S.S.L.C./P.U.C./Degree/Diploma Certificates

Those who are not self-employed and not pursuing higher education

DELIVERED AS PROMISED...

Helpline : 1800 599 9918

For registration visit
https://sevasindhugs.karnataka.gov.in

CANDIDATES CAN ALSO REGISTER AT KARNATAKA ONE, BANGALORE ONE, GRAMA ONE AND BAPUJI SEVA KENDRAS FREE OF COST.

Monthly declaration of unemployment status is mandatory on Seva Sindhu portal. False declaration will result in penalization and legal action.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/

Published by : Skill Development, Enterpreneurship and Livelihood (SDEL) Department

Ayodhya

Where Divinity Meets Uniqueness

Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport

Ayodhya Dham Bus Station

Ram Ki Paidi

Ayodhya Dham Railway Station

Integrated Progress and Development

Formation of **Ayodhya Dham Teerth Development Council**

Temple Museum will be established on 25 acres in Majha Jamthara, Ayodhya

Ayodhya Research Institute will get international status

State Fair status accorded to all fairs oganised at Ayodhya including Deepotsav

Construction of **Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport** in final stage, flights to operate from December

Ayodhya to become the first solar city by generating 70 million units of electricity with a 40 MW Solar Power Capacity

Development of **Greenfield Township** a sprawling 1,893 acre

Ayodhya Ring Road development is in progress worth Rs. 4,793 crore

Widening of **14 Kosi Parikrama Marg** worth Rs. 1140 crore

Beautification and expansion of 13 Km **Rampath** worth Rs. 787 crore, nearing completion of the final phase

Widening of **Panchkosi Parikrama Marg** for Rs. 773 crore

Upgradation and expansion of **Ayodhya Railway Station** for Rs. 724 crore, work of first phase nearing completion

Construction of **8 Railway Overbridges** for Rs. 515 crore, 80% work completed on 4 ROBs

Underground power cable laying project worth Rs. 300 crore

Construction of **Rajarshi Dashrath Autonomous State Medical College** worth Rs. 245 crore

Construction of **city entrance gates** on 6 major routes at a cost of Rs. 73 Crore

Beautification and expansion of **Dharm Path** with Rs 65 crore, **Bhakti Path** with Rs. 62 crore, **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Path** with Rs. 39 crore

Construction of 6 packages of **84 Kosi Parikrama Marg**

Tourism development of Mangal Bhawan Temple, Janaki Ghat Badaghat, Akshari Temple, Laxman Fort, Brahmkund Gurudwara Temple, Dasharath Bhawan Temple

Construction of **Water Sports Ramp Boat Shed,** Retaining Wall and Jetty on the bank of Saryu River

DIVYA DEEPOTSAV

2023

Lighting of record 22,23,000 earthen lamps, Tableau & Exhibitions, Green & Digital Crackers display, Projection Mapping, Musical Lazer and 3D Holographic Show on the life of Prabhu Shri Ram. Staging of Ramleela by artists from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Russia and various Indian states

2022

Lightning of 15.76 lakh earthen lamps. Staging of Ramleela by the grand international team of Russia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Fiji, Nepal and Trinidad & Tobago

2021

Lighting of 9.41 lakh earthen lamps. Staging of international Ramleelas of Sri Lanka and Nepal and national Ramleelas of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh

2020

Lighting of 5.51 lakh earthen lamps. Staging of International Ramleela by Trinidad, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Fiji and Nepal

2019

Lighting of 4.04 lakh earthen lamps. Staging of International Ramleela by Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines

2018

Lighting of 3.01 lakh earthen lamps. Staging of International Ramleela by Trinidad, Russia, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka

2017

Lighting of 1.71 lakh earthen lamps. Staging of International Ramleela by Indonesia and Sri Lanka

Setting Guinness Book of World Records Every Year

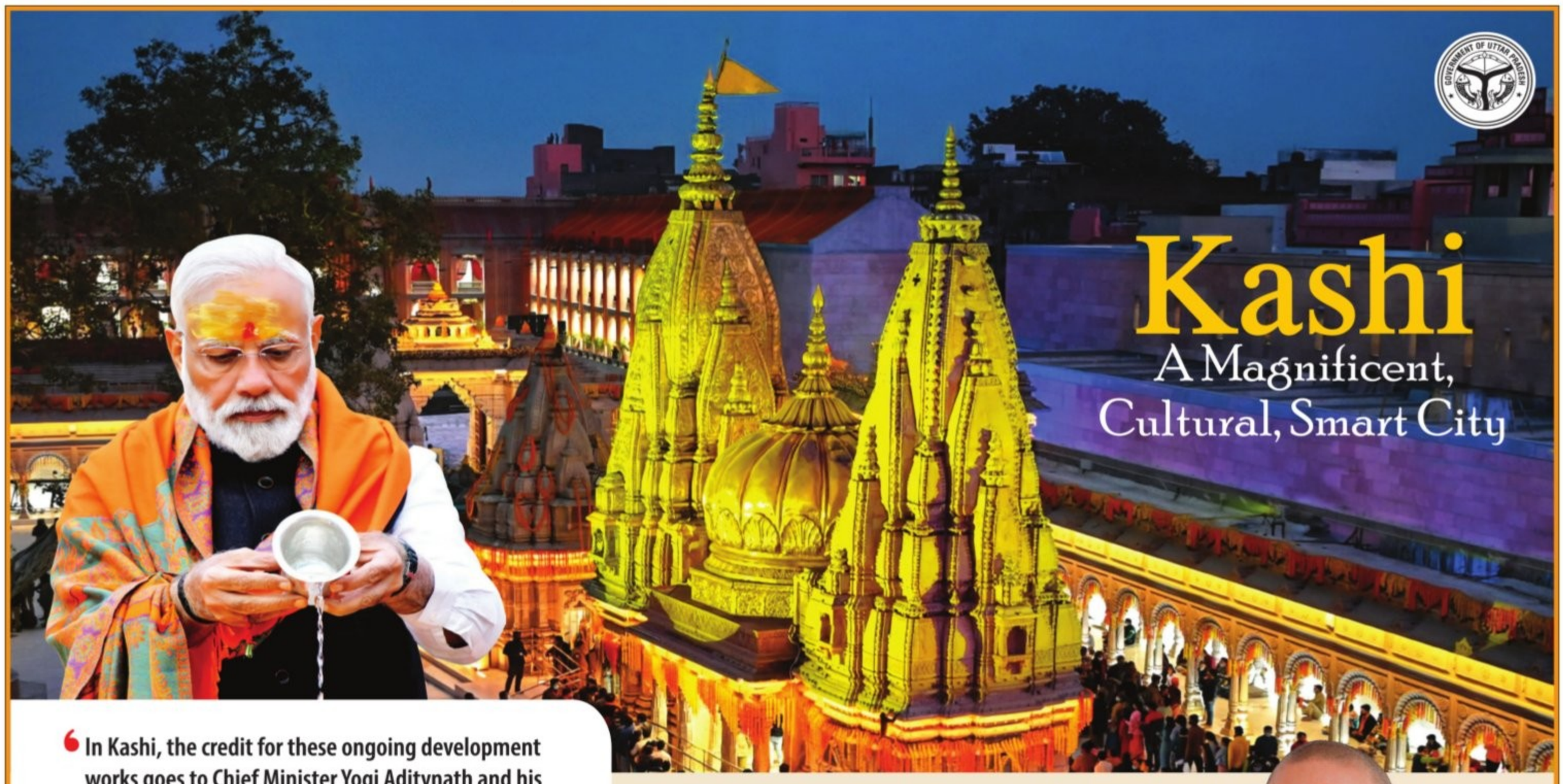
Annual Tourist Visits to Ayodhya

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DOMESTIC	1,78,32,717	1,95,34,824	2,04,63,403	61,93,537	1,57,43,359	2,39,09,014	1,77,26,135
FOREIGN	25,141	28,335	28,321	2,611	31	1,465	1,547
TOTAL	1,78,57,858	1,95,63,159	2,04,91,724	61,96,148*	1,57,43,390	2,39,10,479	1,77,27,682*

* COVID-19 EFFECT

*TILL SEPTEMBER, 2023

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh



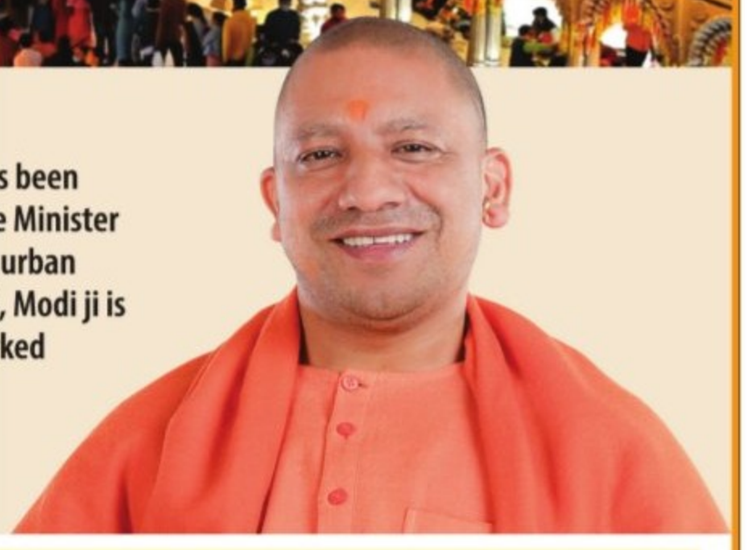
Kashi
A Magnificent, Cultural, Smart City

> In Kashi, the credit for these ongoing development works goes to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his entire team, my cabinet colleagues, elected representatives, and everyone associated with the government machinery. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Yogi ji and his team for this determined effort of public service

-Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

> We considered Kashi a land of spirituality but the city's infrastructure was inadequate. This has been changed under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji as he has transformed the urban landscape of this city. For the people of Varanasi, Modi ji is not only their PM but also their MP who has worked extensively for this ancient and holy city

-Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



Rudraksha, International Convention Center built with a cost of ₹186 crore. Spread over an area of 2.87 acre it has a seating capacity of 1200 people

Varanasi included in the **top 10 cities** of the country in the 100 Smart Cities ranking

Dev Deepawali-2023: **21 lakh earthen lamps lit,** representatives from 70 countries participated

The world's longest **river cruise Ganga Vilas** from Varanasi to Dibrugarh (3,200 km)

Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor has given a meteoric rise to tourism in UP. More than 7.12 crore tourists visited in the year 2022, which is more than 10 times from 2018

Kashi Tamil Sangamam organised, inspired by the vision of **Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat**

India's first freight village developed on 100 acres

Construction of the first **public transport rope-way project** in the country in progress from Cantt to Godaulia intersection (3.75 km)

Construction in full swing of 30.6 acre, **International Cricket Stadium** for ₹451 crore in Ganjari village

- Tap water connections to **3,09,172 families,** 18,55,032 villagers benefitted under Har Ghar Jal Yojana
- The country's first international cargo operational from **Varanasi to Bangladesh** via Haldia
- Alakhnanda **river cruise services** operational
- Establishment of ATC tower and technical block in **Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport,** the airport is expanding to an area of 245 acres
- Establishment of CIPET and **International Skill Development Center**
- Establishment of a 2 MW capacity **Solar Power Plant** at Bhelupur Jal Sansthan campus and 0.8 MW capacity solar plant at Koniya Pumping Station
- Establishment of an **Integrated Pack House** for grading and processing of fruits and vegetables in Karkhiyaon
- Construction of **residential building** at Rajkiya Ashram Paddhati Vidyalaya at Tarsara
- Biogas-based **power generation plant** established in National Dairy Development Board Milk Plant, Ramnagar
- Construction of **underground parking** in Benia Bagh, Town Hall & Kutchery
- Redevelopment of **Manikarnika Ghat & Harishchandra Ghat**
- Establishment of a **septage management plant** in Ramna
- A new **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** railway line is under construction, connecting Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Junction to Son Nagar at a cost of ₹6,762 crore
- Widening of four-lane of **National Highway-56 (Varanasi-Jaunpur)** at a cost of ₹2,751 crore
- Construction of a 17 km **four-lane road** from Kutchery to Babatpur at a cost of ₹629 crore
- Construction work of **Sigra Sports Complex** in progress at a cost of ₹400 crore with training facilities of 53 sports

- Construction of **Sewage treatment plant** with ₹307 crore
- Establishment of **Pt. Deendayal Hastkala Sankul** (Trade facilitation centre) at Bada Lalpur with ₹305 crore
- Construction of 4 lane road from **Kutchery to Sandaha** at a cost of ₹ 242 crore
- Construction of 4 lane/6 lane road from **Lahartara-BHU-Vijaya Cinema** at a cost of ₹ 242 crore
- Construction of 4 lane road from **Pandeypur Flyover to Ring road** at a cost of ₹ 219 crore
- Establishment of **Integrated Command and Control Center** with ₹176 crore
- **Cameras installed** at 720 places in the city worth ₹142 crore
- Construction of hostel for doctors, nurses and dharmshala on premises of **Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya** Cancer Centre with cost of ₹130 crore
- Construction of **Namo Ghat** at a cost of ₹70 crore
- **Status of AIIMS** accorded to Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU
- Establishment of **100 bedded MCH wing** at BHU and **50 bedded MCH wing** at Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay District hospital
- Construction of **608 EWS houses** at village Dasepur, Harhua under the Affordable Housing in Partnership component of PMAY
- Construction of a **Waste to Charcoal Plant** at it's last phase having capacity of 200 ton per day in Ramna
- Construction of a **45 km long ring road** from Rajatalab to Chandauli
- **3D sculpture map** installed at Dashashwamedh Bhavan, providing information about tourists and other major places of the city at one place

Varanasi, nominated as the first SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation for the year 2022-2023

Arrival of tourists in Kashi

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Indian Tourists	60,95,890	64,47,775	8,76,303	30,75,913	7,11,47,310	5,37,87,004
Foreign Tourists	3,48,970	3,50,000	1,06,189	2,566	83,741	13,777
Total Tourists	64,44,860	67,97,775	9,82,492 * Impact of Covid-19	30,78,479 * Impact of Covid-19	7,12,31,051	5,38,00,781 *Till December 2, 2023

KASHI KA VAIBHAV VISTAR - DOUBLE ENGINE KI SARKAR

Foggy conditions disrupt many flights from Bengaluru to Hyerabad

Flights were diverted back to KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

POOR visibility due to foggy conditions in the morning in Hyderabad resulted in many flights from Bengaluru getting diverted back to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) or suffering massive delays in departure.

A Oman Air flight from Muscat to Hyderabad (WY 235) could not land at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport and was diverted to Bengaluru.

Vistara's UK897 reached its destination 3 hrs and 45 mins late. It left KIA at 6.55 am and was scheduled to reach Hyderabad at 8.10 am. Instead, it returned to Bengaluru by 9.40 am. The official handle posted on X: "Flight UK897 which returned to Bangalore has departed from Bangalore at 1051 hours and is expected to arrive in Hyderabad at 1140 hours."

Flights of Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines from KIA to Hyderabad were diverted back to Bengaluru. Lufthansa flight LH 7352finally departed at 10.31 am instead of 6.55 am and reached Hyderabad only around noon, a delay of 3 hrs and 45 minutes.

Singapore Airlines SQ 4803 departed at 7.17 am from KIA but was diverted back to Bengaluru at 9.52 am. It took off much later from KIA.

Japan Airlines JL 9251 from KIA to Hyderabad departed 23 minutes late (7.17 am), but could not land there immediately and was able to land only at 11.15 am (delayed by 3 hrs and 5 mins).

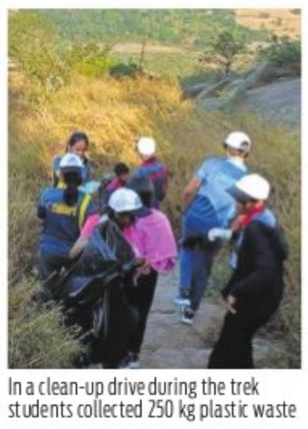
Students collect 250kg plastic on trek to Shivagange

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OVER 130 students across various grades from CMR National Public School, Bengaluru, conducted a 'Plogging Trek' to Shivagange Hills. The trek was part of experiential learning which aims to provide students with the knowledge of the environment and also about building physical fitness.

Students actively contributed to the cause by engaging in a clean-up drive during the trek and collected 250 kg of plastic waste. This initiative went beyond the traditional parameters of trekking as students were able to practically learn the importance of the on environment, and also critical leadership abilities. The trek fostered empathy and made students aware of the impact human behaviour has on the ecosystem. Students got to navigate through different terrains during the trek.

Anamika Radhakrishnan, head of student development at Ekya Schools and CMR K-12, said, "The plogging trek embodies our steadfast dedication to deliver an education that transcends conventional boundaries, nurturing students not merely academically but in their entirety. This initiative underscores our belief in cultivating a generation that values and safeguards our environment." School has undertaken similar initiatives in the past, and plans to continue across all Ekya campuses.


In a clean-up drive during the trek students collected 250 kg plastic waste

WOES ON ROADS

Officials must consult traffic cops to avoid jams, say experts

The road capacity remains same, while traffic volume increases constantly

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

WITH repeated instances of traffic snarls at various malls across the city, especially during weekends, holidays and festive season, officials and experts have opined that traffic police should be consulted before giving approvals required, to construct malls and convention centres, which sees high footfall often thereby throwing the traffic out of gear.

Vehicles had queued up for almost two kilometres on the service road on Ballari Road as thousands of vehicles were heading towards Mall of Asia near Hebbal, on Christmas eve that fell on a Sunday. Traffic snarls were also reported at malls located in Mahadevapura, Bannerghatta Road and other areas.

Residents living around Mall of Asia complain that they are often inconvenienced after the opening of the mall. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), MN Anucheth said there is parking made available for around 6,000 four-wheelers and 4,000 two-wheelers. However, the footfall is about 60,000 during evening hours on holidays.

Experts say that to avoid traffic woes, civic authorities should consult traffic police before giving any required approvals to such commercial projects. With such long traffic jams on major roads, ambulances and fire tenders will find it difficult to reach any given spot swiftly, especially in case of an emergency. DGP of the Fire and emergency services department, Kamal Pant, noted that there should be a 'Traffic Impact Study' before the commencement of such projects.

"You (mall owners) can build a mall but why should there be a spillover of traffic on the main road?" questioned Pant, and observed that certain locations close to main roads should not be considered for malls as it will be humanly impossible to manage traffic.

Noting that establishments like malls and convention halls would only add more vehicles to the existing traffic, D Prasad, member of Indian Road Congress, stressed that while the capacity of the roads remain the same, the volume of traffic keeps increasing as newer malls are built. "Such projects are a contradiction to the road index. Currently, there is no practice of consulting the traffic police before starting the construction of such establishments, yet when the traffic situation worsens on these roads, they are the ones blamed for poor traffic management. It is advisable to consult the traffic police before giving any approvals for the construction of these commercial establishments. Considering the opinion of the local traffic police could be the solution to the traffic problems," he said.

Currently, multiplexes located in malls are obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the traffic police. "At present, NOCs are being obtained only for multiplexes from malls based on the number of seats. However, the same is not applicable to shops and establishments, though it has a higher footfall compared to multiplexes," said Anucheth.

Traffic expert MN Shreehari, however, opined that it would be better if the traffic police just clear unauthorized parking on roads, and make service roads one-way.

BLESSED AND HOPEFUL

People light candles and offer prayers to the infant Jesus at churches in Bengaluru on Monday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

WHO warns of use of e-cigarettes in teens, experts say ban not working

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

THE recently released advisory by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned about the urgent need to take an action in order to protect children and prevent the uptake of e-cigarettes. Educationalists and doctors in the city say that despite the ban, there is a lack in enforcing the ban, as vendors at petty shops are openly selling the banned products without even checking the age criteria. Experts suggest that there is a need to adopt to newer ways of creating awareness.

Children between the age of 13 and 15 years are using e-cigarettes at a much higher rates than the adults, said the organisation. WHO released a statement on Dec 14 that e-cigarettes with nicotine are highly addictive and harmful.

Some of these toxic substances are known to cause cancer while others increase risk of heart and lung disorders. The use of e-cigarettes can also affect brain development and lead to learning disorders. Fetal exposure to e-cigarettes can adversely affect the development of the fetus. Exposure to emissions from e-cigarettes also poses risks to passive smokers.

"The sale of e-cigarettes is rampant in the city. It is as harmful as consuming a nicotine pill directly, especially for children," said Vasudev Sharma, Executive Director, Child Rights Trust. He questioned the government for only sending notices but not ensuring that the rule is implemented.

Experts also noted that the idea of e-cigarettes being 'less harmful' than cigarettes is popular amongst the youth. Public health and policy expert Chandrakant Lahariya opined that with the types of nicotine availabile in the market, newer forms of interventions need to be introduced at school and college levels.

WHO also highlighted that even brief exposure to e-cigarette content on social media can be associated with increased intention to use these products. Studies also show that those who use e-cigarettes are three times more likely to use cigarettes later in life.

BMTC workers want MD out, to skip e-bus launch today

ENS @ Bengaluru

WHILE BMTC will flag off 100 electric buses on Tuesday, members of the KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation have decided to boycott the launch and have urged the government to transfer BMTC MD Sathyavathi.

In a hard-hitting letter addressed to BMTC MD Sathyavathi dated December 24, the union has pointed out that she has been ignoring them since she took charge and has not discussed problems of the employees.

Federation president HV Anantha Subbarao said in the letter, "You have not met the federation even once to discuss the problems faced by the employees. As you oppose the federation and don't need us, we too have decided that we do not need your programmes.

"We have all rights to set up trade unions according to the powers conferred by the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. You have initiated an inquiry against us under regulation 23 for distributing our Federation's pamphlet among the employees. A trade union member is kept under suspension for talking to the media. You have violated trade agreements with your revengeful attitude and removed many workers from service," he said in the letter.

He said they are not trying to find fault with her and added that the state government should not have posted her as the MD for a public bus corporation like BMTC which is close to people.

R-Day flower show to depict 'Vachana Sahitya'

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU is gearing up for the 2024 annual Republic Day flower Show at Lalbagh, as the main attraction in the upcoming flower show will be a floral replica of Lord Basaveshwara. The 11-day flower show will be inaugurated on January 18, 2024 and will conclude on January 28. An official said that the Lord Basaveshwara's theme was decided in a meeting with Horticulture Minister SS Mallikarjun and Lalbagh Director DS Ramesh among others.

"The 12th-century Kannada philosopher and social reformer Basavanna rejected superstitions along with gender discrimination, and advocated equality. His philosophy and teachings are essential today. Thus, this time, the floral patterns are being created based on Basavanna and 'Vachana Sahitya' (rhythmic writing) theme," said a senior official.

Along with Basaveshwara or Basavanna, the statues of philosophers like Akka Mahadevi, Madiwala Machaiah, Gangambike, and others, along with their 'vachanas' will be on display. There will also be the replica of 'Anubhava Mantapa', a 'socio-religious parliament' where devotees and poets of all faiths gathered in the 12th century.

According to officials, there will be live recitals of the vachanas at 'Band Stand', which will be a special attraction.

The officials stated that about three lakh planted pots were ready in the first week of November as the plants take about 45 to 60 days to flower. Some of the flowers and plants are usually sourced from Darjeeling and Ooty.

"About 5 lakh cut roses and 3 lakh cut chrysanthemum flowers will be used to make the main theme in the Glass House ever year, and the same is expected this year as well" an official stated.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

26TH December: It's a remarkable moment. This is a time of year when the general disposition of the celestial bodies evokes such mythical themes as rebirth and resurrection. Many cultures have traditions of solar-heroes who are reborn around now, bringing light to the world and enlightenment to our souls. I find this thought very inspiring.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You are beginning to doubt whether a number of financial commitments are really worth the bother. In any case you'll have to settle bills for purchases or other obligations which are due to work out more costly than you feared. Remem-ber that partners have the advantage, so don't push issues you can't win.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The planets maintain their tense alignment today with an interesting aspect from Neptune to the Sun adding to the sense of confusion. Above all, you should observe the old rule that the more logical your approach, the happier will be the outcome.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Venus' helpful presence is boosting your morale, and whatever else happens today, it will be your sense of status and responsibility that is crucial to your well-being and happiness. A colleague at work may seem determined to disagree.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
These are uncertain times and you're not the only person to have financial cares, so stop being so self-indulgent. How about relaxing for a change and splashing out some of your hard-earned cash on a treat for you and your friends? Work still seems to be going slowly, so take it easy if you can.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Take domestic matters in hand and pay close attention to any and all possible causes of family friction. Some of the decisions that need to be taken may seem hard now but will be worthwhile in the long run. Your costs still appear to be rising, so keep an eye on unnecessary expenditure.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It looks very much as if someone is trying to get the better of you, possibly without your being fully aware of what they're up to. In any event, your behaviour in the past will assure friends that you are now in the right. Family members may be unconvinced, though.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may as well prepare yourself for what could be a hectic and trying day, but there's no reason at all why you shouldn't come through with flying colours, having gained enormously in self-respect and confidence. Your optimism shines through in the end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
With Mercury still pestering the Sun, it's doubtful whether you'll be able to give a straight answer to a straight question, but it doesn't really matter as long as you know what you mean and other people aren't too confused. There is so much still to be said in a treasured relationship, but you may not be able to say it yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
At all costs don't give other people the impression that you've been using them for your own ends, even if there has been a hint of exploitation in your relationships lately. There should be more room for give and take. In fact, the more you give, the more you'll receive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Venus continues to confer its blessings on your finances, raising prospects for renewed prosperity. Hopefully the emotional traumas of the past will now be no more than distant memories. Remember the importance of discretion in relation to current relationships - and don't open your mouth when you shouldn't!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Your ruling planets, Saturn and Uranus, are currently making a rather powerful aspect to each other, and you may be under considerable pressure. But every cloud has a silver lining and even apparently major crises will bring welcome benefits in your direction.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
The planetary position is generally favourable, especially now that Venus and Jupiter are poised to help you on your way, and any difficulties you are currently facing are very much the result of your own bad management. So the solutions lie with you more than with the stars.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle ▼

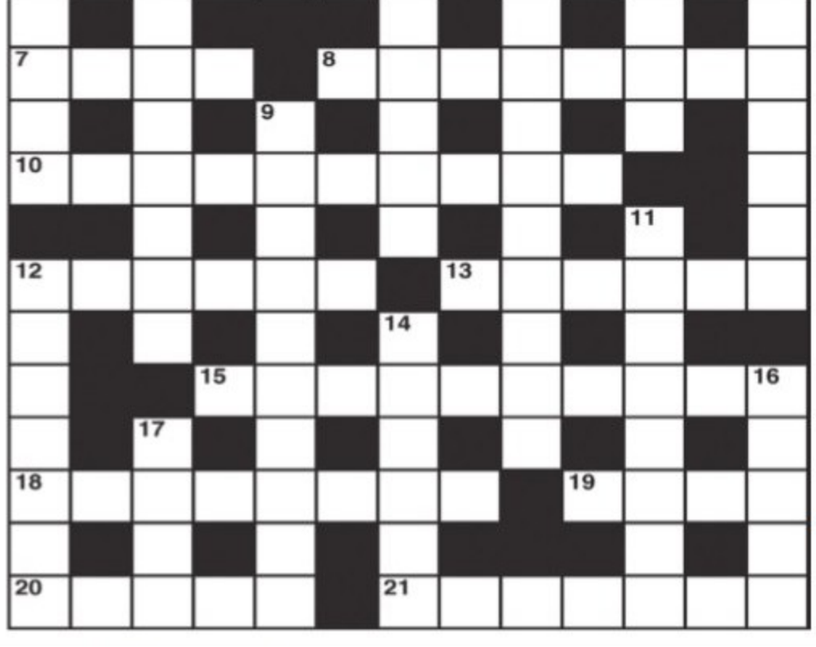
		8					2	5
			8					6
7		2		5	9			
		7	3					
	1	3				2	9	
					8	4		
			1	9		8		2
1					3			
6	8					1		

5	1	6	9	8	3	4	2	7
3	8	2	5	4	7	6	9	1
9	4	7	6	2	1	5	8	3
6	5	3	8	9	2	1	7	4
1	9	4	3	7	6	8	5	2
7	2	8	1	5	4	9	3	6
8	7	1	2	6	5	3	4	9
2	6	5	4	3	9	7	1	8
4	3	9	7	1	8	2	6	5

SUDOKU EVIL

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

○ Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 A witty soul it's said (7)
4 Not suitable due to rocking a punt (5)
7 Born and died in poverty (4)
8 Living for a nice beef stew (8)
10 Ocean winds of a sort Arctic explorers have to face (4,3,3)
12 Demonstrates it's in error (4,2)
13 Take down in an attempt to reach agreement (6)
15 It is bound to be a help for foreign travellers (6,4)
18 Telephone breakdown at the last moment? (8)
19 Two articles written for the goddess (4)
20 Deposit for a house (5)
21 Defence raised when things get too hot (7)

DOWN
1 Tied up money? (5)
2 Should one see the dentist with it? (8)
3 Gives up the struggle with crops (6)
4 Making our descent without a guide (10)
5 Dedicated prima donna makes a comeback (4)
6 They are about to knock medical treatment (7)
9 Food that may be undishable! (6,4)
11 Worn-out shoes? (8)
12 Shocking subject for play school (7)
14 Pat can be disturbed in a snooze (6)
16 Lark rising around a village in Africa (5)
17 Settled with a cushion placed round one (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Well-wishers, 9 Apropos, 10 Samos, 11 Ills, 12 Pleasant, 14 Entrap, 16 Little, 18 Matchbox, 19 Trim, 22 Solve, 23 Several, 24 Free traders.

Down: 2 Enrol, 3 Lips, 4 Insult, 5 Hispanic, 6 Rampant, 7 Taxidermist, 8 Isothermals, 13 Cashmere, 15 Tutelar, 17 Mouser, 20 Rarer, 21 Avid.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

LAKAO

ULDFI

GTRIBH

SKREHO

Giddy up!
Don't let him get away!
We've got you, horseman!
SLEEPY HOLLOW'S FAMOUS HORSEMAN WAS BEING CHASED AND HAD TO ---
10/28
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABOUT ADOPT UNRULY CURFEW
Answer: They weren't teeing off for an hour, so they went to the practice green to -- PUTTER AROUND

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • DECEMBER 26, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

Mao Ning

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DON'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OUR COMPANIES, CHINA TELLS INDIA

Beijing has urged New Delhi not to discriminate against Chinese companies, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a press meet

CHINESE NATIONALS TO GET CONSULAR ACCESS

China will provide consular protection and assistance to its nationals working for smartphone maker Vivo. The ED last week arrested three Vivo-India executives in connection with its money laundering probe. Last week, interim CEO of Vivo-India Hong Xuquan a.k.a Terry was taken into custody. A few months ago, another Chinese national was arrested | **P15**

CHARGESHEET FILED IN SPECIAL PMLA COURT

- The Enforcement Directorate filed its chargesheet in the case before a special PMLA court in Delhi, which recently took cognisance of it
- Earlier, Lava international MD Hari Om Rai was arrested. He told the court his company was in talks with Vivo-India to form a joint venture a decade ago and that he has not derived any monetary benefit

₹62,476 cr

TRANSFERRED TO CHINA ILLEGALLY FROM INDIA, ALLEGES ED

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

34 JN.1 cases, 3 Covid deaths in state

20 cases from Bengaluru; Cabinet sub-committee to meet today

PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Don't panic, just stay cautious: TAC member

Dr Rajath Athreya, Senior Consultant and HOD Paediatrics and Neonatology, Sakra World Hospital, who is also a TAC member, said public need not panic but just have to stay cautious

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THREE persons died of Covid-19 in various parts of the State on Monday.They all had a history of SARI and other comorbidities.

Meanwhile, the State recorded 34 cases of the new Covid-19 variant, JN.1, on Monday.

The Health Department had sent 192 Covid-19 positive samples for Whole Genomic Surveillance (WGS) for confirmation of the JN.1 variant and the results of 60 samples were out on Monday. Of the 60 samples, 34 tested JN.1 positive.It may be noted that the new variant was found in three persons who died a few days ago.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the cabinet sub-committee on Covid-19 will meet on Tuesday and take a decision on whether to impose any restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus.

Addressing the media here, Gundu Rao said, "We were expecting cases of JN.1 variant in Karnataka as it has been found fueling positive cases abroad. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Covid-19 has given us a report. Measures to manage Covid-19 will be discussed at the cabinet sub-committee meeting."

"As of now, we have 34 confirmed cases and the numbers are expected to only go up. The results of WGS of the remaining samples are expected to be out on Wednesday," the minister said.

Of the 34 JN.1 cases in the State, 20 are from Bengaluru, four from Mysuru, three from Mandya and one each from Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, Kodagu and Chamarajanagara districts. **P7**

Vision barricades stolen on the Mysuru-Bengaluru access-controlled highway near Maddur in Mandya district | UDAYASHANKAR S

Gangs steal steel fences, poles on B'luru-Mys road

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

STEEL fences and electric poles, vision barriers, blinkers, and signages along the Mysuru-Bengaluru access controlled highway have now become the target of some local gangs.

The gangs operating on the highway use gas-cutters and other hi-tech equipment to cut these materials at night and take them away. Although theft of highway property has been going on for months, the jurisdictional police seem to be doing little to prevent it.

Initially, it was believed that villagers were removing the steel fence to cross the highway to go to their fields. But it came to light recently that the theft of highway property was rampant on the stretches between Srirangapatna and Mandya, Maddur and Chanapatna, and Ramanagara and Bidadi.

Motorists find it difficult to enter and exit the highway at night because of the disappearance of signages, blinkers and vision barriers at many places. Many accidents have taken place because of this, according to sources.

Though the private company, which had executed the work, and NHAI had lodged several complaints, the police have not taken them seriously, the sources said. The gangs are operating at will because of police inaction. How can anyone cut a 30-foot steel pole? It can't be done by one or two persons. Some organised gangs are operating on the highway, said Ravi from Maddur. **P6**

Nitish set to be back as JD(U) boss

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is planning a big show of strength in the national capital by holding the national executive meeting of the Janata Dal (United) on December 29 where he is likely to take over as party president from incumbent Lalan Singh.

Sources said Nitish plans to aggressively play the backward card as the head of his party and position himself as the top backward leader of the INDIA bloc. Party leaders said a message will be sent to INDIA from the meeting that the JD(U) is keeping its options open and watching closely how Nitish is being treated.

JD(U) leaders consider Nitish as the architect of the INDIA alliance. It was he who had persuaded West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee against going with her then Telangana counterpart and Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief K Chandrashekhar Rao to form a third front. Mamata had then convinced Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal to join the Opposition group, now known as INDIA. Nitish had travelled across the country to bring non-BJP leaders on one platform.

Nitish was certain that the allies would reward him by making him INDIA convenor. That has not happened. Much to his surprise, the two leaders who were opposed to partnering with the Congress — Kejriwal and Mamata — have now suggested Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as INDIA bloc's candidate for the post of prime minister.

The Delhi meet aims to pressure INDIA leaders to value the centrality of his role in the formation of the group and give him a leadership position. According to sources, Nitish's feelings have already been conveyed to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

JD(U) sources said Nitish's name as party head will be proposed as the national executive committee meet. Once approved, the national council will ratify it.

Court of Inquiry in Poonch, 3 officers face investigation

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

AMIDST allegations of the Army's role in the death of the three civilians in Poonch district following an ambush last week that killed four soldiers, Army Chief General Manoj Pande reached the area to take stock of the situation.

After a full briefing and interaction with officers on the ground, General Pande urged the commanders to conduct all operations in the "most professional manner".

Two days after the ambush on December 21, the Army set up a Court of Inquiry into the mysterious deaths on December 23. It has since 'attached' a Brigadier, a Colonel (Commanding Officer of the unit) and a Lieutenant Colonel, sources said. 'Attaching' is a euphemism for putting them under watch of the local higher formation pending inquiry.

The J&K administration, too, filed a murder case against unknown Army personnel, announced compensation to the bereaved families and jobs to the next of kin, sources said.

Four soldiers were killed and three injured on Thursday when two Army vehicles in J&K's Poonch district were ambushed by terrorists. The attack took place at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Bufliaz around 3.45 pm.

Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande during his visit to the Poonch sector in J&K on Monday | PTI

The vehicles were fired upon from an advantageous point as they couldn't speed away because they were negotiating a blind curve.

Eight civilians were then picked up for questioning by the security forces. Subsequently, the bodies of three of them were mysteriously found near the ambush site. All three were from Topa Peer village. Their families alleged that they were tortured and killed by the Army personnel. The five other civilians picked up by the Army are undergoing treatment for serious injuries at a hospital, sources said. The Army is yet to nab the assailants involved in the ambush. Search operations are continuing.

We want names of the concerned Army Major, policemen and the Army sources to be included in the FIR besides shifting of Rashtriya Rifles camp —Mohd Sadiq, relative of one of the deceased

Heat on cops, Army

The victims were picked up by the troops accompanied by policemen Rafiq and Rashid along with their sources Jagi and Ganesh, said a relative

EXPRESS READ

Row over Shivanand Patil's remark on 'farmers and drought'

Bengaluru: Karnataka Minister for Sugar and Agriculture Marketing Shivanand Patil's statement that farmers wish for repeated droughts so that their loans get waived has caused a stir, with the opposition terming it as an 'affront' to farmers seeking his removal from the Cabinet | **P6**

Delhi airport sees 8 flight diversions due to bad weather

New Delhi: As many as eight flights were diverted from the Delhi airport on Monday morning due to bad weather, an official said. A total of seven flights were diverted to Jaipur in Rajasthan and one was diverted to Ahmedabad in Gujarat

Drought, pests bringing down silk cocoon quality

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WATCH the quality of sarees you are wearing in the days ahead. While the quantity of cocoons has increased, the quality of mulberry and silk is seriously getting affected due to the effects of pesticides and drought.

Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (KSSRDI) scientists said increasing use of pesticides over the years on horticultural crops along with which mulberry is grown has dropped the quality of silk.

"Sericulture is affected due to the soil on which mulberry is harvested, and due to this the silk industry is taking a hit. It has been a concern over the last few years. But this year, because of drought and climate change, the ill-effects are more significantly visible," a KSSRDI scientist explained.

KSSRDI Registrar A Jambunath told The New Indian Express that since there are no rains, the horticulture plants are getting more diseases. As pesticides are sprayed on horticulture crops, the pests and insects are shifting to mulberry

plants. As pesticides cannot be sprayed on mulberry plants as they are known to be toxic to silkworms, it further hampers the silk quality. So the silk quality is getting affected.

"The state gets 11,000 MT of silk annually. From eight kilos of cocoons, one kilo of silk is obtained. But this time the quality is bad. Normally, from one cocoon a single thread of 14-15 metres is drawn. But now, because of the poor quality there are breakages in the threads. There is no single filament and silk with knots is difficult to weave, affecting the quality," a senior official from Sericulture Institute explained on the condition of not being named. **P7**

36 IN ICU

Woman dies, 135 taken ill after eating 'prasada' at Hoskote temples

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ONE person died and 135 others were hospitalised after they ate "prasada" given at temples at Hoskote in Bengaluru Rural district on Sunday.

Food poisoning is said to be the reason. Siddagangamma, 64, died at hospital on Monday afternoon.

Many among those taken ill visited three temples at Hoskote and ate the "prasada" offered there as part of Hanuma Jayanti celebrations. However, some of them, who did not have "prasada", also developed conditions such as vomiting and dysentery. Of the 135 people, who were admitted to six hospitals, 36 are being treated in intensive care units.

The police said a large number of people visited Venkataramana Swamy, Anjaneya, and Kote Anjaneyaswamy temples, where they ate payasa, laddu and puliyogare offered as "prasada". The reason for sickness could not be ascertained as a few of them, who did not eat the "prasada", were also admitted to hospitals with similar conditions.

Siddagangamma ate the "prasada" her husband gave her and their daughter. While her husband did not develop any sickness, Siddagangamma and her daughter complained of symptoms such as vomiting and dysentery. They were rushed to Silicon City Hospital at Hoskote where Siddagangamma died. Siddagangamma had a heart disorder and the exact reason for her death is yet to be known, the police said. **P7**

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After beefing up police security by deploying as many as 4,000 police personnel in Chikkamagaluru, the district administration has banned the entry of Sriram Sene national president Pramod Mutalik and state president Gangadhar Mahadev Kulkarni from the district for 14 days

Min's drought remark sparks row

Opposition parties, farmer leaders demand apology from Shivanand Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

APMC and Cooperative Minister Shivanand Patil has landed in hot water for stating that "farmers wish for drought to get their loans waived off", with opposition and farmer leaders taking the government to task for insensitive remarks.

Patil's speech at the Suttatti Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society in Belagavi recently has now gone viral on social media.

Farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar said this is an irresponsible statement. "As a minister, he should have been careful. Farmers take loans for agricultural activities, but if due to calamities they do not get the crop yield, they urge for loan waiver," he said.

Claiming that the state government had waived off loans of big companies, he asked the minister, "How can you speak so lightly?" He demanded that the minister apologise to farmers, warning, "If such statements are repeated, you will be thrown out of office."

JDS leader and former CM HD Kumaraswamy stressed that farmers are asking for their rights and not begging for alms. He recalled how farmers committed suicide before the state government waived off their loans, during his tenure as chief minister.

Seeking the minister's apology and resignation, BJP state president BY Vijayendra told reporters that on one hand, most taluks in the state are facing drought, while on the other, the chief minister and ministers are travelling in luxury. "In such a scenario, the minister is making irresponsible statements. Previously, Patil had made similar statements on farmer suicides, saying these are attempts to get money," he said.

PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said Patil might have made the statement by mistake. "Farmers never wish for drought. Drought creates problems not only for farmers, but for all people as food can be grown only when it rains."

In his speech, Patil had said, "Water from the Krishna river is free for irrigation, power supply is free, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has ensured free seed and fertiliser, but farmers still wish for drought. If there is drought, their loans will be waived off."

Siddaramaiah had recently announced that even medium-term loans will be waived off. Farm loans were also waived during the tenures of BS Yediyurappa and Kumaraswamy.

Did not make such statement, says Patil

Vijayapura: Cooperative Minister Shivanand Patil on Monday claimed that he didn't say that farmers wish for drought. "Drought is common in North Karnataka. The region faces drought every three to four years. I suggested farmers adopt modern agricultural methods to tide over drought," he told reporters. The farmers will have the capacity to lend to the government if they do farming in a scientific manner, he said. Alleging that some policies of the central government are against the interest of farmers, Patil said the government has banned the export of sugar. Because of this, the price of sugar in other countries is around Rs 60 per kg, while in India, it is at Rs 40 per kg. "Similarly, when the prices of copra dropped, the central government did not take any action. The central government has also banned the export of onion and cotton. These policies go against the interest of farmers. If these policies are reversed, then there will be no need to waive farm loans. On the contrary, farmers will become so prosperous that they will be in a position to lend to the government," he said. He asserted that central government policies on agriculture must be revised. Referring to the APMC Act, he said while the Centre withdrew it, the previous BJP government in the state which had formulated a similar act, did not pull it out. **ENS**

POWER CUTS GAINED CENTRESTAGE IN 2023

BOSKY KHANNA

JUST a few days after the government launched the Gruha Jyothi scheme, where domestic consumers get free electricity up to 200 units, the state experienced a severe shortage of power. Matters became worse in October when the government announced five hours of staggered power supply to irrigation pumpsets of farmers.

To manage the situation, the state government invoked Section 11 of the Electricity Act, mandating private power producers to sell power only to the state. Further, the government purchased power at the rate approved by the Karnataka Electricity Regulation Commission (KERC). The state also started purchasing power from the grid at Rs 6.66 per unit.

To meet the power deficit, it entered into barter agreements with Uttar Pradesh and Punjab to procure 700 MW and 300 MW of power, respectively.

To address the immediate crisis, Energy Minister KJ George rushed to Delhi in October and November to meet the Union ministry and raise concerns over coal shortage and inadequate supply from the grid to the state. The energy department made a presentation to the Central government to create dedicated green energy corridors and to build transmission infrastructure to facilitate bulk power transmission from green-hydrogen-related renewable energy projects. The demand was made to make the most of Karnataka's solar and wind power generation.

As per government records, the state generates 31,905.61MW of power, of which 3798 MW is from hydro resources, 5,020 MW from thermal, 4,337.13 MW is generated from CGS sources, 5,250.19 MW of wind energy and 8,079.34 MW of solar energy.

To address power shortage, the energy department urged farmers to solarise their pump sets, for which schemes were launched and tenders called for. The department decided to decentralise solar power generation and not depend only on Pavagada solar panels for renewable energy. It proposed to the state government to acquire government lands near grids at the cost of Re 1 per acre to set up solar panels.

Though George had announced that there would be no power cuts for domestic and industrial consumers, it was not the case. Throughout 2023, consumers and experts criticised the government for cutting power in the guise of maintenance. The government and KERC also came under attack for hiking fixed charges and fuel and adjustment charges once every three months, making the tariff per unit the highest in a decade.

The common thread of criticism was that those consuming over 200 units of power and industries were made to bear the burden of financing the Gruha Jyothi scheme.

In December, as the year neared its end, energy department officials said the situation had stabilised, but cautioned that consumers would have to face power cuts in the coming days, with changing temperatures, rising demand and deficit generation.

Government agencies also came under fire for the slow pace of work in dealing with overhead power lines and cables. The state government and Bangalore Electricity Supply Corporation Limited had to cut a sorry figure especially after a mother-daughter duo was electrocuted near Hope Farm in Bengaluru in November. Even as the government aggressively announced stern action against those responsible for dangling overhead wires and cables, it fizzled out as the year-end neared, only ending in awareness campaigns.

POWER PLAY

- State government launched the Gruha Jyothi scheme, one of the promises made by the Congress in its election manifesto. As per data, a total of 1,61,70,187 consumers are availing the service across the state. The scheme offers free electricity, up to 200 units to domestic consumers. To help consumers, the state government also launched a dedicated portal in the Seva Sindhu portal.
- Addressing the issue of rising air pollution and rising fuel charges, the energy department is aggressively popularizing electric vehicles. The government, along with the transport department, also simplified the registration procedure and road transport charges for electric vehicles. Tenders were also called for setting up charging stations across the state, especially along highways and toll booths. According to data there are 320 as on March 31, 2023. The government also proposed to set up 2880 in the state along with RTOs national highway authority of India and under public private partnership model.

'NHAI must set up police outposts'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

AFTER removing the steel poles, railings and fences, the gangs carry them to goods carriers parked in the dark below the highway and escape via some village roads. Absence of CCTV cameras and streetlights on village roads is a blessing in disguise for the gangs.

Those running roadside hotels, dhabas, and mobile canteens have also cut the steel fence to facilitate people to go to their premises. The gangs are also using these spots to enter and exit the highway, the sources said.

However, the NHAI officials have not taken any action against the owners of such hotels and eateries.

Meanwhile, villagers blamed the NHAI officials for not making provisions to cross the highway near their villages. This has forced them to cut open the steel fences to cross the road, they said.

Vasu, a resident of Mysuru, said the NHAI officials should install CCTV cameras and set up police outposts every 25 km to stop the theft of highway property.

NHAI executive engineer Rahul said the contractor has been told to fix the steel fences along the highway. The police and Cescom officials have been asked to help prevent the theft of highway property.

With LS elections around the corner, BJP makes overtures to minorities

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

WHEN BJP state president BY Vijayendra and Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan visited Archbishop Peter Machado and greeted him for Christmas on Sunday, it was after a gap of four years that BJP top leaders in the state have extended such a courtesy towards the Christian community. BJP now wants to mend fences with minorities with the Lok Sabha polls five months away and every vote counts for the party.

BS Yediyurappa as state party president and chief minister had a reputation for "zero religious discrimination" and had visited the Archbishop and other minority programmes. But neither previous party state president Nalin Kumar Kateel nor former CM Basavraj Bommai visited minorities during their tenure, giving an impression tha minorities didn't matter to them. But Monday's visit could well be a harbinger of change and gives an indication of the party transforming from exclusive to inclusive, political observers said.

Archbishop Machado told Vijayendra, "We may follow different religions, but we need to rise above them and set aside our prejudices. Your father BS Yediyurappa was a gentleman and accepting of all religions and he had visited us on important occasions. But those after him did not."

BJP state president BY Vijayendra greets Archbishop Peter Machado on Christmas in Bengaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

A minority leader recalled how they had invited then CM Bommai for the Mother Mary feast in September, but he skipped the programme at the last minute. No effort was taken by the government or the party to reach out to the minorities, he added.

Rashmi Dsouza, national executive comittee member, BJP minority wing, said, "BJP is a party of opportunities. I have been in the party for around 20 years and I have grown from being a booth-level worker to the national level. It is time the minorities shed their misgivings about BJP and support it like they support other parties. More minorities means more strength for the minorities in the party"

Karnataka Minority Commission chairman and former MLC Abdul Azeem, a former president of the BJP State Minority Morcha, said, "There was a gap between minorities and BJP. Both were in a way responsible for this chasm. Now the party is moving inclusively." But minorities have sulked on many occasions, saying they need at least a few tickets to contest elections.

Karnataka BJP Minority Morcha chief Dr Anil Thomas said, "Modiji himself is leading from the front. Today, yet again the PM Modiji visited churches and the Karnataka state unit is also following this move and reaching out to minorities. This is literally Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas."

BJP names Poojari as LoP in Council; Bellad Dy LoP in Assembly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Opposition BJP on Monday appointed senior leader and former minister Kota Shrinivas Poojari as the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and party MLA from Hubballi-Dharwad West Arvind Bellad as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

Former Deputy Chief Minister R Ashoka was appointed as the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly last month, over six months after the Congress formed the government in Karnataka.

MLCs Sunil Vallyapure and N Ravi Kumar have been appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the party's Chief Whip in the Legislative Council, respectively, while Doddanagouda G Patil, MLA from Hungund in Bagalkot district has been appointed the party's chief whip in the Assembly.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said the appointments are made on the directives of the BJP national president JP Nadda. They will work effectively as the voice of the people and uphold the democratic values, Vijayendra, MLA from Shikaripura, added.

Poojari, a soft-spoken politician from Udupi district had earlier worked effectively as the Leader of the Opposition in the Council from July 2018 to July 2019 and as a minister in the BJP government, he was the Floor Leader in the Upper House.

The new team of party office-bearers as well as leaders in the Assembly and Council will play a major role for the party during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Sources said the focus is on young and experienced leaders, who are keen to prove themselves. The party Central leaders appreciated Vijayendra for his clarity of thoughts and suggesting names with party interests in mind, sources in BJP said.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, CORPORATIONS ANY MOMENT: SHIVAKUMAR

Bengaluru: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president, has expressed confidence that the appointments to boards and corporations will be done anytime soon and names of party workers along with legislators will be considered as suggested by the party high command. "There is a list of 40-50 names, including party workers.... the appointments can happen any moment," he told reporters when asked about the delay in making the appointments. According to informed sources, AICC president Mallikarujun Kharge, who is in Bengaluru, is likely to give his nod to the list following which the list will be made public. During their recent visit to Delhi, both CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar held a marathon meeting at the latter's flat During their visit to the national capital, both chief minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar held a marathon meeting at the latter's private flat. Even as the list was prepared, the party top brass, especially Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi, stalled it as only MLAs and MLCs were being considered for the posts. **ENS**

EXPRESS READ

Govt committed to lifting hijab ban, says minister

Belagavi: In the backdrop of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's flip-flop on the hijab issue, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said the government is committed to lifting the hijab ban in educational institutions in the state. "We had announced in our party manifesto during the elections that we will lift the ban on hijab. We are committed to fulfilling our promise," he said here on Monday. The government has made its stand clear on the matter. "When the court asks the government, we will say that the ban will be lifted." To a query on candidates for the LS elections, he said applications from aspirants from Belagavi and Chikkodi will be sent to the high command. A meeting in this regard will be held in Vijayapura on Tuesday. **ENS**

SAFE VISITS

Govt to study carrying capacity of tourist hotspots

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

IN wake of increasing footfall in various tourism destinations, the Tourism Department, keeping the safety aspects of tourists in mind, is planning to undertake a 'carrying capacity' assessment of tourist hotspots.

Tourism officials said while there are restrictions on booking at forest guest houses and Jungle Lodges and Resorts that regulate the footfall, there is little or no control in other places. Many untoward incidents have been reported, like at waterfalls and beaches.

"The rise in footfall increases the revenue, but it is also a matter of concern from the safety point of view. Places in Kodagu or Hampi or even at waterfalls need to have restrictions. The environment can get affected. Cases of untoward incidents being reported at MM Hills, Kumaraparvatha or even at Nandi Hills are not rare. We cannot put restrictions immediately. The involvement of the district administration is also important in such matters. So to start with we only want to undertake a study of the carrying capacity of various destinations and after a detailed discussion with the government, the next course of action will be decided," said an official from the tourism department.

Large number of vehicles parked in Mysuru on Monday as the city witnessed a heavy rush of tourists because of the extended holidays | UDAYASHANKAR S

The official said there is no one base or benchmark to mark the carrying capacity and footfall. It will depend upon the location, the type of site (nature, heritage, coastal, museum, science and technology or others), an average calculation of the footfalls recorded over the years and the historical and environmental significance.

"Since this is being done for the first time, experts and locals will also be consulted on what they require and what should be done. Any exercise that hampers the livelihood of the locals and state economy will not be undertaken. After Covid, things have got back to normalcy, we do not want to restrict the inflow of tourists to the state. The carrying capacity study will also act as a baseline to decide the future course of tourism development and potential," the official said.

The government will take three months to get all clearances from competitive authorities to complete the ongoing national highway projects in Karnataka. About 15 National Highway works worth Rs 17,000 crore are yet to be completed in the state, said PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi

TAC member: Be on guard, new Covid variants expected

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of apprehension among the public over new cases of Covid variant JN1 in the state, Dr Rajath Athreya, member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), said people need not press the panic button just yet, but have to stay cautious.

"We have lived with the Coronavirus for three years now. We have crossed the pandemic stage and have entered a phase of endemicity where people have varying immunity to the virus-- by infections, exposures and vaccination. Coronavirus has been in circulation at a low level and the viruses will keep mutating and we can expect new variants like the JN1," said Dr Athreya, also senior consultant and HoD of Paediatrics and Neonatology, Sakra World Hospital.

As a public health measure, the state government has issued guidelines and it holds good even after the detection of the new variant.

"In countries where the new variant is already in circulation, World Health Organisation and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have found that it has the potential to evade immunity and infect and is spreading fast, but has not led to any spike in hospitalisation," he said.

Dr Athreya added, "All the elderly who are 60 years and above, ones with co-morbid conditions, pregnant women and lactating mothers, should avoid visiting closed, poorly ventilated spaces and crowded areas. When they head out they should wear face masks."

Ahead of the New Year celebrations that sees gathering of a large number of people, Dr Athreya stressed on following Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) of social distancing, face masking, hand-sanitization and respiratory hygiene/ cough etiquette.

He called upon people with symptoms to come forward and get themselves tested.

People have started using face masks in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

CASE NUMBERS

Positive cases on Dec 25	125
Active cases	436 (7 in ICU, 29 general wards, 400 in home isolation)
Tests done	3,155
Deaths	3
Positivity Rate	3.96%

ASHAs to screen Ayyappa devotees

Mysuru: Due to rise in Covid positive cases in Kerala, ASHA workers will screen devotees from Mysuru region who regularly travell to Sabarimala temple in the neighbouring state to have darshan of Lord Ayyappa Swamy. The workers will visit the houses of the devotees and if they find Covid symptoms, they will advise them to get tested. ENS

'No need to impose restrictions'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

HEALTH Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said as of now, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Union Health Ministry have classified JN.1 as 'Variant of Interest' (VoI) and not 'Variant of Concern' (VoC). Hence, there is no need for imposing restrictions.

For the third consecutive day, the total positive cases in the State crossed the 100 mark and stood at 125. With this, the total number of active cases in the State reached 436 on Monday.

MAN POSES AS GARBAGE LIFTER TO MEET DAUGHTER, HC QUASHES EX-WIFE'S CASE

Court says misuse of provisions of law by woman against ex-husband to settle scores

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court freed a 36-year-old man from the crime which had been registered by his divorced wife on charges of criminal trespass and intimidation for using a novel idea to visit their daughter by entering the apartment as a garbage lifter in the city.

Justice M Nagaprasanna allowed the husband's petition, questioning the crime registered by the divorced 39-year-old wife at Kothanur police station.

Their marriage had been dissolved before a family court in New Delhi on mutual consent under Section 13(B) of the Hindu Marriage Act, with the husband given rights to visit their daughter every Saturday from 3 pm to 5 pm, either at the wife's residence or at a neutral place. Later, the family shifted to Bengaluru and the daughter has been with the wife since September 2020.

The incident that occurred on August 20, 2022 led to the crime being registered on September 7, 2022. The wife had mailed to the husband, saying his visit to the daughter had been rescheduled to August 27. The husband confirmed having received the mail by replying 'noted'. But he entered the wife's building on August 20 to meet his eight-year-old daughter. When he reached the apartment complex and tried thrice to get in by recording his name at the gate through an app, which is in control of the wife, the permission was denied. Anxious that he could not meet his daughter till next week, he got into the apartment contending that he wanted to park his car and later escaped the security. When security guards chased him, he got into the garbage van at the tailgate where the garbage is placed and pretended to be guarding the garbage. He reached the wife's house along with garbage collectors, met the daughter and came back.

The wife registered the crime after 15 days of the incident, alleging that their daughter went into trauma after seeing her father suddenly.

"... all the offences are loosely laid against the petitioner. If any further investigation is permitted to continue, it would become, on the face of it, an abuse of the process of law and misuse of the provisions of law by the wife against the husband to settle her scores," the court said.

IPL cricketer, ex-girlfriend file plaint, counter-plaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AN FIR has been filed against 29-year-old cricketer **KC Cariappa**, who had played for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL), by his former girlfriend. In her complaint, the player's girlfriend accused him of making her pregnant and coercing her into abortion by feeding her abortion pills. Kariappa too filed a counter-complaint against his former girlfriend alleging that she had threatened him saying she would end his career in cricket.

In the complaint filed with RT Nagar police station, Neha (name changed), alleged that Cariappa made her pregnant when the two were in a relationship and then forcibly fed her abortion pills. Neha also accused Cariappa of attempting to convince her not to file the case, promising her that he would marry her.

Cariappa, a resident of Ramaiah Layout, Nagasandra, in his complaint filed with Bagalagunte police, alleged that Neha was a drug user and excessive drinker and they used to frequently quarrel over this. Cariappa told her to mend her ways and broke off with her when she did not do so, the complaint stated.

After the two separated, Neha allegedly came to Cariappa's residence with a knife that she ordered online and threatened to kill him and his family members.

"Both Cariappa and Neha have been called for questioning and we are probing the matter," a police officer said.

Trekker, 23, dies of heart attack atop Kodagu peak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madikeri

A trek turned fatal for a youngster visiting Kodagu. He died of a heart attack after summiting Tadiandamol, the highest peak in Kodagu district, near Napoklu in Madikeri taluk on Sunday.

The youngster has been identified as Jathin, 23, from Haryana. Three boys and three girls, who arrived here from Bengaluru, planned to trek the Tadiandamol peak in the morning. As soon as they reached the peak, Jathin developed breathing issues.

Sources said that he became breathless and fainted. A doctor, who was part of another trekking team, tried to save Jathin. But he suffered a massive heart attack and died. Forest and police officials were alerted immediately. They rushed to the peak and brought the body of Jathin down on a makeshift stretcher.

The body was shifted to the district hospital in Madikeri and handed over to the family of Jathin after conducting a postmortem.

Napoklu police have registered a case.

Forest and police personnel bring down the trekker's body from the Tadiandamol peak in Kodagu | EXPRESS

HOLDING COURT

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar receives petitions from guest lecturers seeking job regularisation at his residence in Bengaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

Condition of others stable

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

DR Triveni, Joint Director (CMD) of the State health department, confirmed the death of Siddagangamma. The condition of other patients is stable.

Some have been treated as outpatients and sent home. Food samples have been sent to Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute for tests, she said.

Health officials and the food safety officer visited the patients. An entire floor was converted to an ICU ward at Srinivasa Hospital, Hoskote.

'Chinese silk sarees making major impact'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ACCORDING to data from the sericulture department, from April to November of financial year 2022-23, 15,903.452 metric tonnes (MT) of cross-breed cocoons and 7,721.94 MT of bivoltine cocoons (that produce two broods a season, and are more popular in Asian countries) were procured. However, in FY 2023-24 (April-November), 19,694.496 MT and 8,812.344 MT cocoons, respectively, have been obtained.

Although the quantity of cocoons has increased, Rajesh Gowda, Director of Sericulture, said that as mulberry is getting infected with pests, the gum that is generated for the silk is also not happening. The gum is an important factor, which while coating the silk fibres enables the latter to stick to each other. It is from a protein called sericin which comprises 30 percent of the silk, the rest by another protein called fibroin.

And the situation is bad across the state. An official from Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation said: "Usually the corporation does not purchase silk from outside. We have our own yarn and farmers. So we have no problems with purchases. We procure the top A-1 quality in the first lot and so there is no compromise in silk saree quality from the corporation. However, we have been getting reports that the number of polyester mix and fancy silk sarees in the market have increased. Chinese silk sarees are also making a significant impact on the market, which is a worry."

EXPRESS READ

Gym trainer jumps off five-storey building

A 32-year-old gym trainer ended his life by jumping from the terrace of a five-storey apartment around 11.45 pm on Sarjapur road in Parappana Agrahara on Sunday. Ganesh Pand was under the influence of alcohol and police suspect it to be a case of suicide. Police, however, did not find any death note from his residence. Hailing from Odisha, Pand had been staying with his sister and her family for over six months. The family members were inside the house at the time of the incident. The Parappana Agrahara police have registered a case of unnatural death. ENS

Worker buried alive at construction site

A construction worker was buried alive when a heap of mud fell on him at a construction site in Suddaguntepalya on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Ranjan of Sonpur in Bihar. The police said the incident happened around 2.30 pm when five workers were engaged in the foundation work at the construction site. A heap of mud fell on them and two workers, including Ranjan, were trapped while the other three managed to escape. The other worker was rescued while Ranjan was buried alive. Police have registered a case. ENS

HC quashes appointments of Sanskrit varsity Dy Registrar, officer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

QUASHING the appointments of Prakash Pagoji as Deputy Registrar and Shivamurthy as section officer of Karnataka Sanskrit University, the High Court of Karnataka has directed the university to consider the applications of the two petitioners and others and fill the posts on the basis of merit.

Justice NS Sanjay Gowda passed the order recently on the petitions filed by Gangadharappa BO, research assistant, the University of Mysuru, and Shailashree R of Bengaluru, questioning the appointments of Pagoji and Shivamurthy.

The university should consider only those candidates (including the petitioners) who are eligible for the two posts, the court said.

In her petition, Shailashree stated that Shivamurthy is not eligible for the post as he is 42 and has crossed the age limit. However, Shivamurthy contended that he has worked in an aided institution and therefore, he should get the benefit of the enhanced age limit. The court, however, said that an employee of an aided institution cannot equate his employment to that of an employment under the government for claiming the benefit of the age limit extension. Therefore, the appointments cannot be sustained.

The court said it could not accept the argument of the university that it is entitled to consider even candidates from aided institutions. The statutes specifically provide for an enhanced age limit only to those who are under the direct employment of a university or a government or a local body. This benefit cannot be utilised by the applicants merely because their employer received grant-in-aid from the government.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the General Public that my client **Mr.Jarugula Ashok Babu,** S/o. Mohana Rao, Aged about 44 years, Residing at No.1-68A, Konanki, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh-523260, he is intending to purchase all that property as more particularly described in the schedule hereunder and Situated at Yerrappanahalli Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, which is intend to purchase by my above client.

Therefore any other Person/s having any claim in respect of the referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, transfer of title or beneficial interest, under any trust right of possession, or per-emptionor under any agreement or other disposition decree, or Awarder otherwise claiming howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned **within 14 days (both days inclusive)** of the Publication hereof failing which the claim of such persons/s will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Site bearing No.43, formed in Survey No.21, Old No.21/P48, Land developed by Prime Developers Rep by its Proprietor, Measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1500 square feet, with all right of easements appurtenances either latent patent attached to the schedule property and bounded as follows: **east by:** Road, **west by:** Site No.48, **north by:** Site No.42, **south by:** Site No.44.

K V Naveen Kumar, Advocate
Manvith Law Associates,
Advocates & Consultants, Hanuman Building,
Bhatrahalli Signal, Old Madras Road,
K R Puram-560049, Mob No.9916532142.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that my clients (1) Mrs. R. N. Vasandapriya W/o. Mr. T Nithyanand, aged about 38 years and (2) Mr. T Nithyanand, S/o. A Thangaraj, aged about 40 years, both residing at Flat No. NA-3/G-1, Vijaya Enclave, Nethravathi Block Bannerghatta Road, Bilekahalli Village, Bangalore South - 560076, are the owners of the property bearing Flat No. NA-3/G-1, in the Ground Floor, Nethravathi Block, Vijaya Enclave, Bilekahalli Village, Bangalore South -560076, having Carpet Area 777 Sq Ft and 468 Sq Ft of Undivided Share in the Survey Nos.117 & 121 admeasuring 5 Acres 31 Guntas on which said apartment is constructed (referred to as the '**Subject Property**').

My clients have lost/misplaced Original registered Sale Deed dated 15/05/2001 registered as Document No.1484/01-02, Book-I, Volume No.4889, Pages 185 to 194 at the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore South Taluk, pertaining to the Subject Property while traveling and in spite of all their best efforts, they have not been able to trace the same.

Our client has already lodged a police complaint to this effect at Bangalore City Police station on 24/12/2023 vide SI No.861587. Any person having information or possession of the said document or having any claim over the Subject Property is hereby requested to contact our offices at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date of this notice.

Mrs. Hema, Advocate
office Add: No.21, N. Nagenahalli,
SRK Nagar Post, Bangalore-560077.
Ph No. 9972484005
Place: Bangalore Date: 25/12/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that original Sale deed dated 02/09/95 registered as document no 5545/95-96 in respect of my site numbers 34, 35 at Banjara Orchards, Horamavu Agara, Bengaluru has been lost/ misplaced. If found please contact : **Anupama Hegde, 14/2, Cambridge Road, Halasuru Bengaluru, Mob : 9980036370.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS hereby given that our client **Mr. AFZAL BAIG** S/o Hussain Baig, is desirous of Purchasing the Schedule Property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present Owners: **M. VENKATESH** S/o Muniyappa(Aadhar No.6982 7751 0349) and his family members, R/at: No. 2/7, Varalakshmi Nilaya, 15th Main Road, 22nd Cross, Sector-3, Yellukunte village, HSR Layout, BENGALURU 560 102, for valid consideration and in pursuance of the same, have entered into an agreement of sale registered at the office of the SRO Begur, Bangalore city District as No: BGR-01-09736/2022-23 dated 24.01.2023.

Any person or persons having any claims, rights, title or interest in respect of the Schedule Property or any part there of, by way of inheritance, mortgage, Sale Agreement, transfer, assignment, lease, sub-lease, License, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, acquisition, requisition, any sort of encumbrances or beneficial right/ interest under any trust, right of prescription or pre-emtion or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit, decree, Injunction order or attachment or award passed by any Court or Authority litigation, lis-pendens, decree or order of any adjudicating authority, exchange, partition, Power of attorney, will, bequest, Tenancy, development rights, partnership, family arrangement/ Settlement or otherwise, howsoever Claim are hereby requested to make the same in writing along with complete documentary evidence to the undersigned within a period of **8 {Eight} days** from the date of Publication hereof, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such claim exists and our client proceed to purchase the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
{Property agreed to be sold under the Agreement}

All that piece and parcel of Eastern Portion of the Property measuring **East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 125 feet, in all measuring 5,000 Sq.ft.** {Out of larger extent measuring 11,407 Sq.ft} having BBMP Khatha No.266/244/232/244/40/1,BBMP Khatha Serial No.266, formed in Industrial converted Land bearing Sy No.40/1, converted by the DC Bangalore district vide their order No. B.Dis.ALN.SR[S]557/2003-04 dated 10.08.2004 for Non-Agrl.-Industrial Purpose, situated at **Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** comes under the BBMP Limits ward No.190 Mangammanapalya and bounded on:

East By: 40 feet Road.
West By: Remaining portion of the Property Belongs to the Vendors.
North By: Road.
South By: Property belonging to the Vendors.

Sd/-
C N Balasubramanyam, Advocate,
No.115/A, 4th Cross, 13th Main,
Bank officers Colony, BTM Layout 1st Stage,
Bengaluru -560 068. Mob. 9342866008
Date: 25.12.2023. Place: Bengaluru.

QuoteExpress
PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES
ROBERT H SCHULLER

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SE(E)/Tr(W&M)C/AEE(C)/23-24/CYS-69 Dated : 22.12.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Manual Mode Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites bid against this enquiry No. **SEE/AEE(C)/Trans/W&M/DVG/23-24/CYS-69 Dated 22.12.2023** for the works coming in the Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere. The detailed notification regarding the works called through Manual mode can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned on or after **27.12.2023** during working hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL,
Opp. District Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davanagere

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

LIC HFL — LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

15/1, Bangalore Back Office, Hayes Centre, Hayes Road, Bangalore - 560025.Ph.: 080-43003651

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SEC 13 (2) OF "THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIALASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The following persons whose names are mentioned in Col No.2, The details of properties mortgaged are shown in Col No.5. The borrower have defaulted in repaying the amounts due by them as shown in Col. No.4, in spite of repeated remainders, consequently these dues have been classified as NPA's as per RBI's guidelines . Notices were sent by Regd. Post to below mentioned date and that is returned / undelivered. Therefore the respective borrowers are hereby called upon to repay the outstanding amounts due mentioned against their names in Col No.3 within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which LIC Housing Finance Ltd., would be constrained to initiate proceedings under sec.13 (4) of SARFAESI Act against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereunder against the respective loan A/cs to realize the amounts due to them.

Sl. No	Name of the Borrower & Loan No	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount (in Rupees)	Description Of The Propery
1	Mr. Kakumanu Anudeep Mr. K Venkata Siva Prasad (GPA Holder) Loan A/C No. 410100010854	04/11/2023	Rs.34701248.00 (Rupees Three Crore Forty Seven Lakh One Thousand Two Hundred Forty Eight Only)	**SCHEDULE 'A' :** All that piece and parcel of Residential Converted Land listed under Item Nos.A.1 to A.18 forming as detailed above, and measuring in total 151 Acres 29 Guntas plus 6 Acres approved under BIAAPA/TP/LAO/792/2005-06 excluding Karab Area and B.3 to B.18 are also an integral part hereof, all comprised in the Survey Nos.86, 86/P9, 86/P13, 86/P22 & 136 of Ilathore Village, Kundana Hobli, and Sy.Nos: 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252/1, 252/2, 252/3 & 255 of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanhalli Taluk, Bangalore District and more clearly delineated and their boundary is marked in blue colour in the plan annexed herewith and bounded on the: East by: Hollywood Town Project and Private Property West by: Nagamangala Boundary North by: Sy.Nos. 94 & 95 of Ilathore Village and Sy.Nos. 253, 254, 256, 257, 259 & 260 of Sadahalli Village. South by: Navarathna Agrahar Village boundary & Private property of Ilathore Village. **SCHEDULE 'B' :** All that piece and parcel of land measuring 34,82,038 sft or such other expansion thereto as land allocated for residential plots, as well as plots measuring 1,96,192 Sft., as commercial plots for the use of the First Owner for Recreation Club, Cottages, Guest Rooms, Health Club + Spa, Grocery Market , Multi-Purpose Hall and such other commercial Purposes, all that is situated within Schedule 'A' and more fully marked and delineated in Yellow, White and blue colour hatched on plan annexed herewith. **SCHEDULE 'C' :** All that piece and parcel of land measuring 19,46,567.57 Sft. Towards Roads, connected pathways & parking, 7,35,907.35 Sft., towards park, Play Area and Open Spaces, 3,35,556.05 Sft, towards Civic Amenities and essential services, all subject to expansion as well as to the conditions laid down by he Local Authority and 1,96,192Sft., comprising Plot Nos. 510, 510A, 67, 64, 65, 66, 91+92, 92A, 14A and 53A which together with structure, buildings, fixtures & furniture, equipment etc., or more as retained by the First Owner as self-owned asset for recreation, Guest Rooms, Cottages, Grocery, Community Hall & other commercial purposes, all situated within Schedule 'A' and more fully marked and delineated in Pink colour as for as Park, Roads, Play area & Open spaces, Blue colour hatched which is approved as Commercial Area in respect of Plot Nos. 510, 510A, 67, 64, 65, 66, 91+92, 14A and 53A on the plan annexed herewith. **SCHEDULE 'D' :** All that piece and parcel of vacant residential site bearing No:57 under present Khata No: 506/57 (150300200401200908) measuring 4700 Sft. (East to West 66', North to South: 71'3")., falling under Survey No.86 of Ilathore Village comprised in the private residentially converted layout known as "SWISS TOWN" situated in the above said Schedule 'A' Property comprised in the Survey Nos.86, 86/P9, 86/P13, 86/P22 & 136 of Ilathore Village, Kundana Hobli, and Survey Nos. 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252/1, 252/2, 252/3 & 255 of Sadahalli Village II, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore District and more fully marked and delineated in thick black colour border on the plan annexed herewith, and bounded on: East by: Plot No.54 of Swiss Town West by: Service Road of Swiss Town North by: Plot No.56 of Swiss Town South by: Service Road of Swiss Town.
2	Mr. Muni Venkatappa Muniraj Loan A/C No. 411600002889	01/12/2023	Rs.29651620.00 (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Six Lakh Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property in Survey No.36, presently portion of Corporation No.36/1, Bellary Road, Ganganagar, Bangalore in Corporation Ward NO.98, Consisting of Cellar, Ground, First and Second Floor and Site measuring East to West: 50 Feet and North to South: 43 feet and bounded as follows: East by:Property belonging to Mr.M Manjunath West by: Bellary Road, North by: Property of Muniramaiah South by: Property of Sttharsab.
3	Ms. P Neelavathi Mr. P Doddappa Loan A/C No. 410900002570	20/11/2023	Rs.7867905.00 (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Five Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY :** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.8, Sy.No.676/A, Situated at Kuduthini, Bellary District, measuring East to West 24 meters and North to South 36 meters, in all total 864 Sq. meters and bounded on: East by: Plot No.7 & 9,West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Road. **ADDITIONAL SECURITY ; SCHEDULE PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing House No.4 & 5 out of remaining Vacant Site T.S.No.12/2A87 paiki Western Part, Town Municipal Assessment No.37035 & 37036, Block No.3, C.T.S. Ward No.16, C M C Ward No.18, measuring East to West: towards Northern Side 26 feet, and Southern Side 30 feet, North to South: towards Eastern side 77.5 feet and Western side 79.5 feet, totally measuring 2210 Sq.ft.,(Middle part of the Vacant Site) situated at Parvathi Nagar, Sub Division, Bellary and District Bellary and bounded on: East by: Remaining part of House No.4 & 5, West by: T S No.12/2A/85 - Sri Madhavarao's House North by: T S No.12/2A/86 - Sri Purushottamraos's House South by: Road.
4	Mr. Muthu S Loan A/C No. 411800002682	24/11/2023	Rs.6967711.00 (rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven Only)	**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:** In Mathigiri Village, (Midigarapalli) of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu, attached to the Regn., of District of Krishnagiri and Sub Regn., District off Hosur, and also attached to the Municipal limits of Hosur. Survey.No.721/1D, Dry Ext.Hec.0.20.0 Asst.Rs.0.22, in this land has been converted into house plots out of this in which Plot No.19, within the following boundaries:East by: Survey No.721/1G West by: Layout Road North by: Plot No.18 South by: Plot No.20. Measuring East to west on North Side: 50 feet, East to West on South side: 50 feet, North to South on East side: 30 feet, North to South west side 30 feet., total measuring 1500 Sq.ft (or) 139.35 sq.mtr. of land in this constructed RCC building Ground Floor measuring 1336 Sq.ft., and second floor measuring 195 Sqft., including all Accessories windows, doors, super structures with electrical installations, pipe fittings, water connection, sunshade and staircase etc., only is covered under this Deed of Sale. The above said plot comes under New Sub Division Survey No.721/1D1B, Dry Ext.Hec.0.09.0, Asst.Rs.0.10 (Patta No.2871). The House bearing EB Sc.No.284.
5	Ms. Hemavathi Mr.cheluvaiah Rangaiah Loan A/C No. 412100001246	06/11/2023	Rs.5588342.00 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Two Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.84, Andrahalli Gram ThanaKhata No.81, Khaneshumari No. 39, situated at Andrahalli, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under BBMP, Ward No.40, Bangalore, measuring East to West:60 feet and North to South: 40 feet, Totally 2400 square feet and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Site No.79, North by: Site No.85, South by: Site No.83
6	Mr. Srikanth S Loan A/C No. 410100011096	06/11/2023	Rs.5582476.00 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six Only)	**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY (Description of the entire Property on which the Apartment Building is Constructed) : Composite Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property comprising 3 items of converted land, as per Item 1, 2, & 3 hereunder bearing Sy. No. 135, Situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, together measuring 34 Guntas : presently bearing BBMP Khata No.2/135/2/135/1, property No.DA(B)/KTR/441/2014-15(forming part of survey no.135); of 192 ward Begur sub-division of BBMP and having common boundaries as under: East by: Land in Sy. No. 44 & 45 in Chikkathogur village West by: Road North by: Road South by: Remaining portion of land Sy. No. 135 **Item No.1:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property comprising converted land (converted to non-agricultural residential purpose vide order No.ALN-SR-(SB)/SR/113/2009-10 dated 26.03.2010 issued by the Spl. Deputy Commissioner (Rev)., Bangalore District) bearing Sy.No. 135, situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 12 Guntas: and bounded on : East by: Remaining portion of land Sy. No. 45 West by: Road North by: Remaining portion of land Sy. No. 135 South by: Remaining portion of land Sy. No. 135 **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property comprising converted land (converted to non-agricultural residential purpose vide order No.ALN-SR-(SB)/SR/04/2011-12 dated 27.07.2011 issued by the Spl. Deputy Commissioner (Rev)., Bangalore District) bearing Sy.No. 135, situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 17 Guntas: and bounded on : East by: Land in Sy No. 44 & 45 in Chikkathogur village West by: Road North by: Road South by: Remaining portion of land Sy. No. 135 Item No.3 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property comprising converted land (converted to non-agricultural residential purpose vide order No.ALN-SR-(SB)/SR/47/2013-14 dated 10.10.2014 issued by the Spl. Deputy Commissioner (Rev)., Bangalore District) bearing Sy.No. 135, situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 17 Guntas: and bounded on : East by: Road West by: Road North by: Portion of Sy.No.135 belonging to Siddagangamma South by: Property of Narayanappa **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : (Description of the Undivided Share of Land Converted)** 533 Square feet of undivided share, rights, title and interest in the schedule "A" Property, which is the corresponding undivided share in respect of Schedule C Apartment unit. **SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY (Description the Apartment Unit hereby Conveyed):** All that piece and parcel of one residential apartment unit, i.e., Flat No. B-G05 measuring s super built up area of 1240 Sq.ft. (which is also inclusive of balconies and proportionate share in the common area) situated in Ground Floor in Block 'B' and with One Covered Car Parking space in the basement/Surface Floor, in the composite multi-storeyed residential apartment building known as "ASTORIA PARK" constructed on the Schedule-A Property. This building is constructed and completed with Cement Blocks and Cement Plaster, R.C.C. Roofing, with Vitrified Flooring, Honne Wood Doors and Steel Windows together with amenities appurtenant thereto.
7	Ms. Pavithra M Mr. Hari Babu Ramana Loan A/C No.410300002505	17/11/2023	Rs.5087175.00 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing residential Site No.8, Assessment No.3, Situated at Doddanagamangala Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the Konappana Agrahar Village Panchayath Limits, measuring East to West 30 Feet, North to South 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft,, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on: East by: Site No.7 West by : Site No.9, North by: Private Property,South by: 25 Feet Wide Road
8	Mr. Murali P Loan A/C No. 412100003941	06/11/2023	Rs.6084646.00 (Rupees Sixty Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Six Hundred Forty Six Only)	**SCHEDULE "A" :** All that piece and parcel of the Western half portion of the Residentially Converted Land being portion of Survey Number 92/1, (Old Sy.No.92), measuring 2 Acres 4 Guntas out of 4 Acres 8 Guntas (Converted Vide the Official Memorandum dated 24.09.2012 bearing No.ALN.(E.B)(K)SR44/2012-13, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), Present Form 'E' Khatha No. 150200401700320147 situated at Dommasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded as follows: East by: Remaining portion of Sy.No.92/1; West by: Road and thereafter land bearing Sy.No.106; North by: Gramathana; South by: Road and thereafter land bearing Sy.No.93. **SCHEDULE "B" :** 571 Sq.ft. undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule 'A' above. **SCHEDULE "C":** Flat bearing No.B002, in the Ground Floor, in B-Block, Present E Khatha No. 150200401700320361, measuring about 1142 Sq.ft., super built up area (Which is including 900 Sq.ft., Carpet area), containing Two Bed Rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring, along with One covered Car Parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, lift etc., in the multistoried residential building known as "RAVOOS NANDAN" constructed in the schedule "A" Property and bounded on: East by: Children Play Area, West by: Flat No.B019, North By: Flat No. B001, South by: Flat No.B003.
9	Mr. Godur Ramesh Kumar Raju Loan A/C 410500003788	29/11/2023	Rs.8850905.00 (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred Five Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of Eastern Portion of Site No.11,Old Khata No.961/11, as per bifurcation New BBMP Khata No.266/961/11,situated at Anathapura Village, Yelehanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Attur Ward No.3, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 50 feet, totally measuring 1500 Sq.feet, and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Portion of the same property bearing Site No.11, BBMP khata No.266/961/11, Retained by the vendors,North by: Road, South by: Property belongs to Mrs. Selvi Ravikumar.
10	Mr. Md Rizwan Khan Loan A/C 411800006513	27/11/2023	Rs.4744115.00 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Fifteen Only	**SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : Item-I :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Eastern portion of Site No.255/296 (108/29), Byatrayanapura BBMP Khatha No.254/255/296/108, situated at Byatrayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 47 feet, North to South 79 feet, totally measuring 3713 Sq.feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the: East by: Munishamapp;s Property, West by: Govindappa's Property, North by: Road, South by: Remaining property of Narayanamma. **Item-II :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP Khatha No.256/256/297/109/297, carved out of Assessment No.21/3, situated at Byatrayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently coming under the limits of BBMP, bearing PID No.007-W0460-74, measuring East to West 22 feet, North to South 75 feet, totally measuring 1650 Sq.feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the: East by: Property of Dodda Sonappa, West by: Remaining portion of the sane property allotted to the share of Sri.G.Somanna , North by: Road, South by: Property belongs to Chikka Sonappa, Manjunath. **Item -III :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Present BBMP Khatha No. 943/21/11, formed in land bearing Sy No. 21/11, situated at Byatrayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, totally measuring 2722.5 Sq.feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the: East by: Kunnte Munishappa's Property, West by: Dodda Sonnapp's Property, North by: Manjunath's Property, South by: Parvatamma's Property. **COMPOSITE SCHEDULE PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Present BBMP Khata No.254/255/296/108, 109 & 21/11, situated at Byatrayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, total measuring 8085.5 Sq.feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the: East by: Munishamapp;s Property, West by: Somanna and Pavatamma's Property North by: Road, South by: Parvathamma's Property. **SCHEDULE "B" :** 365.04 Sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" property. **SCHEDULE "C" :** Flat bearing No. F-1, First Floor, measuring about 1080 sq.feet or super built up area containing Two bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring, together with One covered car parking space, including proportionate Share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multi storied residential complex known as "KVR TOWERS" constructed over schedule "A" Property.
11	Ms. Manasa H K Mr. Sajith Kumar T Loan A/C 410100009065	24/11/2023	Rs.4598906.00 (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Six Only)	COMPOSITE SCHEDULE : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted Sy.No.40/1A, measuring 2 acres 26 guntas duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes, by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, vide conversion order No.ALN.(S)SR(K)/92/2012-13, dt:28-06-2013, and residentially converted Sy.No.11/19 (Old Sy.No.11/5), measuring 0-11.08 Guntas duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes, by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, vide conversion order No.ALN.(S)SR(K)/85/2012-13, dt:19-02-2014, both situated at Kenchenahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, presently within the limits of Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Bangalore, totally measuring 2 Acres 37.08 guntas, both situated adjacent to each other forming a single plot and bounded on: East by: 30 Feet Road West by: Land bearing Sy.No.40/1B1,Sy.No.40/1B2 and Sy.No.40/1B3 North by: Vrushabhavathi River Drain South by: Land bearing Sy.No.11/5 and Sy.No.40/2. **SCHEDULE -"B" (Undivided right, hereby sold to the PURCHASERS):** An undivided 414 Sq.ft., of share, right, title and interest in the Schedule - A Property in proportion to the super built-up area of the Schedule "C" Apartment. **SCHEDULE - "C" Description of the Apartment Transferred) :** Two Bedrooms apartment bearing No.C-010, West Facing, on the Ground Floor of the residential building known as "GRAND GANDHARVA", Block - C, constructed in the Schedule - A Property, having a built up area of 1295 Square Feet (which is inclusive of balconies and utility space) together with One Covered Car Parking Space in the Stilt floor with vitrified tiles flooring.
12	Mr. B R Thulasiram Loan A/C 411500009466	23/11/2023	Rs.4489698.00 (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Eight Only)	**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Plot in Khatha No.118, Present BBMP Khatha No.428/364, formed in Converted Sy.No.34/ID, Vide Conversion Order No.ALN:SR:97/71-72, Dated 08/05/72, Situated at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently under the Administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP, totally measuring 4182 Sq.feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or above the surface and bounded on: East by: Vacant Land Belonged Brahma Chaithanya Prasad (B C Prasad) West by: Private Property Survey No.34/1A, North by: Private Property, South by: Land in same Sy.No.34/1D and Road. **SCHEDULE 'B' :** 301 Sq.feet Undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule 'A' above. **SCHEDULE 'C' :** APARTMENT bearing No.103, in the First Floor, measuring 1385 Sq.feet Super Built-up Area, containing Three Bedrooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring, along with One covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase & lift, contained in the multi storied residential building known as "LALITHYA MEADOWS - Block - D" constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property.
13	Mr. Panner Selvam Rajkumar Loan A/C No. 410100009959	22/11/2023	Rs.5657979.00 (Rupees Fifty Six Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Nine Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY** : All that piece and parcel of Land Property bearing Site No.76, Khata No.176, situated at Kuduregere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 45 feet, Totally 1350 Sq.ft., Presently within the Jurisdiction comes under Madanayakanahalli Senior Sub-Registrar for this within the boudaries are hereunder : East by: Property No.75, West by: Property No.77, North by: Property No.86, South by: Road
14	Ms. Janet Regina Ms. Saritha S Mr. Beskey John Loan A/C No. 411600003537	28/11/2023	Rs.4231507.00 (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred Seven Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of Eastern portion of the property bearing Site No.120, Khata NO.926, Assessment No.106, situated at Kodugondanahalli, Village, Kasba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 30feet and North to South: (55+59)/2 feet, and bounded on: East by: Site No.119, West by: Site No.121, North by: Property belongs to Rahamathulla South by: 25 Feet Wide Road
15	Ms. Seema Bai V Mr. K V Bharani Kumar Loan A/C No. 410200006427	27/11/2023	Rs.4700810.00 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Eight Hundred Ten Only)	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY : ITEM NO.I :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.1, Old HASB Khata No.251/1, Present BBMP Khata NO.530/357/251/A, situated at Kaggadaspura Village, K R Puram, Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, presently under the administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West: 39 feet 3 inches and North to South: 97 feet 1 inch, totally measuring about 3810.5 Sq.feet, and bounded on the: East by: Presently Road & Sathvik Paradise Apartment,(earlier property belongs to Bellandur Thimmareddy West by: Site No.2(Item NO.II property) North by: Private 5 feet Road/Passage belongs to Vendor South by: Property of Sri.G.Muniyappa **ITEM NO.II :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.2, Old HASB Khata No.243/1, Present BBMP Khata NO.532/337/243/A, situated at Kaggadaspura Village, K R Puram, Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, presently under the administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West: 39 feet 3 inches and North to South: 97 feet 1 inch, totally measuring about 3810.5 Sq.feet, and bounded on the: East by: Site No.1 West by: Thimmanna's Son Sri. Nagaraj Reddy Property North by: Private 5 feet Road/Passage belongs to Vendor South by: Property of Sri.G.Muniyappa **COMPOSITE SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.1 & 2, present amalgamated common/joint BBMP Khata No.530/357/251/A, formed in property/Sy No.62/2 of Kaggadaspura, Vignan Nagar, of Kaggadaspura Dhakale, K R Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, Presently under the Administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP, totally measuring 7621 Sq.feet and bounded on the: East by: Presently Road & Sathvik Paradise Apartment,(earlier property belongs to Bellandur Thimmareddy West by: Thimmanna's Son Sri.Nagaraj Reddy Property North by: Private 5 feet Road/Passage belongs to Vendor South by: Property of Sri.G.Muniyappa **SCHEDULE 'B' :** 250 Sq.feet, undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in the schedule "A' Above. **SCHEDULE 'C' :** Flat bearing No.G-5, in the Ground Floor, measuring about 1150 Sq.Ft., super built up area, containing 2 Bed Rooms, with vitrified flooring together with One Car Parking Space, including proportionate share in common area such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multistoried residential building known as "SATHVIK ENCLAVE" constructed over Schedule "A" Property.

Continued in the Next Page

Odisha govt approves spl battalion for Puri temple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhubaneswar

IN a bid to strengthen security of Shri Jagannath temple at Puri along with streamlining crowd management system and ensuring hassle-free darshan of deities, the state government is set to create a dedicated special security battalion for the shrine. Odiah Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday approved the creation of a dedicated special security battalion. The decision was taken based on the feedback given by 5T and Nabin Odisha chairman VK Pandian after discussion with various stakeholders.

According to the chief minister's office (CMO), the battalion has been envisioned to provide security, ensure smooth darshan for the devotees and improve the crowd management measures at Shri Jagannath temple.

The battalion will have the primary responsibility of providing foolproof security to the temple. The personnel of the battalion will be specially trained in crowd management and tourist/devotee facilitation for hassle-free and orderly darshan of the deities in the temple. The battalion will have around 1,190 personnel and placed under the command and control of Puri SP.

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Children take a selfie in front of the famous St Philomena's Church on Christmas Day in Mysuru on Monday | UDAYASHANKAR S

Distance rule under RTE not must, says Madras HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

HOLDING that the distance rule under the Right to Education Act is only directory in nature and not mandatory, the Madras High Court has ordered a private school in Valparai in Coimbatore district to admit a tea estate worker's child under RTE Act disadvantaged group category, though the child's address was more than a km away from the school.

The order was passed by Justice Anita Sumanth recently while disposing of a petition filed by the child's father, Lakshmanan. "The position is clear to the effect that the distance rule is not mandatory but rather directory, particularly when the school has sufficient quota to accommodate children who reside beyond the stipulated distance as well," the judge said. The matter pertains to rejection of application by Beula Matric Higher Secondary School under disadvantaged group category of RTE Act for admission to Lakshmanan's son Pranish. The father had cited Vellamalai Estate, where he was employed, as his address in the application.

Saying that the place fell beyond the stipulated distance of 1 km from the school, the application was rejected. Subsequently, another application was submitted mentioning his residential address but the school did not consider it. The school later admitted the child as a regular candidate and collected the full fee though it had vacancies under the RTE Act quota.

Justice Anita Sumanth ordered the school education department officials to ensure the petitioner's son, Sai Pranish, gets LKG seat under RTE ACT within three weeks and the school refunds the fee paid by him within two weeks.

IN TN, 60 DALITS WALK WITH SLIPPERS ON UPPER CASTE STREET, END YEARS OF SCOURGE

RAVANAN MP @Tiruppur

FOR the first time in their living memory, 60 Dalits from Rajavur village of Madathukulam taluk of Tiruppur district walked wearing footwear on 'Kambala Naicken Street' in Rajavur village breaking an unwritten rule that had kept them under shackles and perpetuated the inhuman practice for years. Dalits are not even allowed to ride cycles on the street, sources said. All the 60 residents of the 300-metre-long street are Naickers, a Backward Caste community.

Of the nearly 900 households residing in the village, 800 belong to dominant castessuch as Gounders and Naickers.

Narrating the ordeal shared through generations, A Muruganandam (51), a villager, said, "Arunthathiyar community members were barred from walking with slippers on the street for decades. SC members were given death threats and were also assaulted. Even dominant caste women issued threats, saying that a local deity will bring death to SC members if they walk with slippers on the street. We were avoiding the street and living under oppression for decades. A few weeks ago, we brought the issue to the notice of Dalit outfits. Late on Sunday, we walked through the street with slippers and ended the decades-long oppression. "

Dalits walking with slippers on Kambala Naicken Street in Rajavur village of Tiruppur district in Tamil Nadu on Sunday

Another SC community member said, "When untouchability was banned after Independence, members of the dominant caste conjured up a story to perpetuate the practice, saying that a voodoo doll has been buried under the street and if SC people walked on the street with slippers, they will die within three months. Some SC members believed those stories and started walking without slippers, and the practice continued to this day."

Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front (Tiruppur) secretary CK Kanagaraj said, "Last week, we went to the village and several Dalit women said they cannot even enter that particular street. We decided to launch a protest, but the police refused permission and asked us to postpone the protest. We accepted that request. But members of our front along with functionaries of Communist Party of India (CPM), Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), and Aathi Thamizhar Peravai (ATP) decided to walk through the street and enter the Rajakaliamman temple in the village which has remained out of bounds for Dalits. On Sunday, 60 Dailts and a few members of Dalit outfits walked on the street with slippers and nobody stopped us. The entire event was monitored by local police. Even after organising the walk, some Dalits are still in fear and we hope our walk will boost their confidence."

DSP (Udumalaipet) J Sukumaran said, "The practice was being followed for decades. Some SC villagers said untouchability was being practiced discreetly and many refused to walk on the street out of fear. After the issue was brought to our notice, we decided to resolve it by holding a meeting with members of both the communities. On Sunday, Dalits walked with slippers and entered the Hindu temple."

ELSEWHERE FROM SOUTH

T'gana CM in Delhi today, likely to meet Modi

Hyderabad: Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy will leave for Delhi on Tuesday and is likely to meet PM Modi the same day. This is the first meeting of Revanth with Modi since his election as the CM of Telangana. Though it is a courtesy call, sources said that Revanth is expected to take up the pending issues of the state with Modi, including release of funds for various projects. ENS

Anti-Hindu tendency in Congress DNA: Kavitha

Hyderabad: BRS MLC K Kavitha alleged that "anti-Hindu" tendency was in the DNA of the Congress. Speaking to reporters here on Monday, Kavitha wondered why Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was silent when leaders of some I.N.D.I.A bloc partners heckled Hindi-speaking states and insulted Sanatan Dharma. She demanded an answer on this from Rahul Gandhi. ENS

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Man-animal conflicts: K'taka looks for unique solutions

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THIS November alone, four people died after coming into conflict with wild animals. From April till November 24, 42 people have died in wild animal attacks.

To mitigate rising man-animal conflicts, the Karnataka Forest department is exploring multiple, out-of-the-box solutions. They include reducing open defecation, radio-collaring tigers, translocating wild cats and immunocontraception of cow elephants staying in coffee estates. But experts advise caution.

The department is looking at forming a special team of experts, scientists and retired forest officials to take up a detailed scientific study of forests and to suggest practical solutions.

A senior forest official told The New Indian Express, "While Karnataka boasts of rising tiger, elephant and leopard numbers, it is also seeing a rise in conflicts. Around 200 elephants permanently stay in coffee estates. Calves are born there and they have never seen forests. To ensure their population does not rise, we are exploring temporary immunocontraception of female elephants. We have requested people not to wander out of their homes during dawn and dusk, from 5 am to 7.30 am and 5 pm to 7 pm. These are the times when animals are running into forests and there is a high chance of people coming

into contact with them."

An official from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department too confirmed that these are the times when rural people go for open defecation. "Despite constructing toilets, people still go for open defecation and come under attack from wild animals, especially in fields and bushes along forest boundaries," the official said.

The forest department is also procuring radio collars for tigers. "Tigers that come in conflict, but do not kill humans, aged and reside in buffer areas, will be radio collared whenever captured. Depending on their health condition, they will either be shifted to rescue centres or relocated to other forests, where the population is less. Tigers aged above 10 normally stray out of forests especially when they are injured or their canines are broken. They should be captured. But permission from MoEFCC is needed," the official added.

Apart from this, villagers are being warned of tiger movements, just like alerts are issued when elephants are seen wandering out of forests in Kodagu. A database of contact numbers is being created at the office of Range Forest Officers at all divisions to send alerts.

Well-known tiger expert K Ullas Karanth said translocation of tigers is not advisable as there have been adverse cases in the past. When an animal kills cattle, the department should immediately compensate the farmers and there is sufficient money with them. But if it kills a human, then it should be immediately killed. Conflict with tigers and leopards rises when they are cornered by humans. If they are let alone, they will go back to the wild, he added.

Ryots threaten poll boycott if wild animals not controlled

ENS @Coimbatore

THE Tamil Nadu farmers association (Non political) has decided to boycott all elections and not to allow politicians to enter villages where people fell victims to wild animal attack. The decision was taken after a tripartite meeting held at Pudupalayam near Thondamuthur on Monday.

T Venugopal, president of the association, told *TNIE* that they passed a resolution to bar political parties from visiting villages wherever the farmers and people are experiencing wild animal conflict to garner votes. "For the last 20 years, we have been experiencing wild animal conflict, especially crop damage caused by the elephants, peafowl and wild boars. Though we are spending lakhs to get treated for the human after injury due to these wild animal attacks, the forest department is handing over only a meager amount. For instance, the department gives ₹60,000 for injuries caused by a wild boar. We are demanding the state government to put an end to these wild animal attack and will not cast votes till the demands are addressed," stressed Venugopal

"The population of the animals like elephants, peafowl, wild boars have increased and farmers continue to suffer in villages bordering western ghats. But officials do not care about farmers and are implementing projects only for the welfare of animals," Venugopal said.

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Sl. No	Name of the Borrower & Loan No	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount (in Rupees)	Description Of The Propery
16	Mr. Nithish L Loan A/C No. 410100010747	24/11/2023	Rs.3716131.00 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Sixteen thousand One Hundred Thirty one only)	SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the property situated at Bangalore North Taluk, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Srigandhakavalu Village, Sy.No.109 2 Acre 02 guntas site, On dated 14.3.2012 Bangalore City, Special District Officer issued Authorized letter dated ALN SR 136/2011-12 converting Agricultural land into Non-Agricultural land, BBMP Ward No.70, SOUTHERN PORTION OF SITE NO 39 (40 x 15 ft.) AND NORTHERN PORTION OF SITE NO.40 (40 x 5 ft.) measuring East to West 40 feet North to South 20 feet, Total extent of property is 800 sq.ft and bounded on the: East by:Site No.33 and 34 West by :Road North by:Remaining Portion of Site No.39 part South by:Remaining Portion of site No.40 part
17	Mr. Dalapath Singh Loan A/C No. 411600004740	04/12/2023	Rs.3075201.00 (Rupees Thirty Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Two Hundred One Only)	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Vacant Site No.3, Khata No.53/1,5/3 & 53/4, formed out of Converted Sy.Ns. 53/1,53/3 & 53/4 (converted for agrcultural to non-agrcultural residentia purpose vide conversion order No.ALN/NY) SR: 169/2014-15,dated 16/11/2015, isuued by Deputy Commssioner, Bangalore) situated at Mediagahara Village, Yeleanka Hobli, Bangaloe North Taluk, measring East to West: 6.75+55/2 feet, Norh to South: 30 feet total measuring 166.25 Sq.ft., togethr with all rights apurtenances whatsoeer underneath or abve the surface and bounded as follows: East by:Road,West by: Site No.15, North by: Site No.2, South by: Site No.4
18	Mr. Nunna Bhanu Prakash Loan A/C No. 410600007250	23/11/2023	Rs.2959188.00 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand One Hundred Eight Only)	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.9, formed in old Sy.No.106/2, New Survey No.106/4, situated at Kithaganur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and the some has been converted for residential purpose vide official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(EBB) SR/126/16-17, dated 29-08-2017, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, for conversion from agricultural residential purpose usage into non-agricultural purposes in respect of the land, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 3feet and North to outh: 20 feet, in al measuring 600 Sq.feet and bounded on: East by: Remaining portion of same Sy.No. West by: Road, North by:Site No.8, South by:Ste No.9/1A.
19	Mr. Pradyumna G Mohan Ms. Shanta Mohan N Loan A/C No. 410600004898	23/11/2023	Rs.2964386.00 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Six Only)	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal No.9, formed in Sy.No.13/2, situaed at Mathikere Village, Deevanarapalya, Gokula I Stage, II Phase, Division No.2, Bangalore - 560054, and measuring East to West: 75'+70'/2 X 69'+45'/2 in all measuring 4280 sq.feet and bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property and South by: Passage Road. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 620 Sq.feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Flat bearing No.1, in the Ground Floor, constructed in the residential apartment known as "GREEN DALE" with a super built up area of 1100 sq.feet, together with proportionate share in the common area and amenities. The apartment is constructed out of cement blocks and cement, RCC Roofing, Mosaic Flooring, Honne wood doors, Aluminium glazed wndows including on covered Car parking space in basement floor bearing No.1.
20	Mr. Kandela Venkata Narasimha Rao Loan A/C No. 410600009716	22/11/2023	Rs.2920972.00 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two Only)	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : (Land on which "TRIGUNA PALM GROVE" apartments are constructed) : All that residential converted undeveloped vacant land belonging to Sy.No.30/1, Municipal No.229/30/1, measuring 13 Guntas equivalent to 14,157 square feet or 1,300.64 square meters, converted in terms of Conversion Order dated 05/04/2016, bearing No.ALN/(NAY)SR/104/15-16, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Presently situated within the Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Ward NO.5, Agrahar Vilage, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, together with all rights of easements, appurtenances whatsoever and the land is bounded by: East by: Land bearing Sy No.30/2, belonging to Sri.Chikka Byrappa West by: Remaining land in Sy.No.30/1, North by: Balance Portion of land in property bearing Sy.No.30/1, and South by: Road and property belonging to Sri.Chandrashekar. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 398 Square feet of undivided right, title, interest and in the Schedule 'A' Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : All that residential Apartment bearing No.207, in Second Floor, in residential complex known as "TRIGUNA PALM GROVE", measuring about 806 Square feet of exclusive Balcony Area, together with One covered Car Parking Slot in the stilt floor, together with proportionate share in common area and facilities, attributable to the said apartment and Apartment is bounded by:East by: Private Property West by: Apartment No.201, North by: Private Property, South by: Apartment No.206.
21	Mr.Balamurugan P Ms. Bharathi Natarajan Loan A/C No. 411500008627	22/11/2023	Rs.2853081.00 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Eighty One Only)	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the layout known as "CYBELE GREENS" formed in residentially converted land bearing Sy.No:s130/2, 130/3 and 131/3 totally measuring 03 Acres 27 Guntas land situated at Kithaganuru Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, and Bangalore East Taluk. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : (Description of Plot hereby conveyed) : All the piece and parcel of residential plot bearing No.47, BDA Khatha No. ಬಿಡಿಎ/ಕಂಎಲ್/ಉ/47/2016-17 (DBA/RO/N/47/2016-17), forming part of converted survey Number 130/2, situated at Kithaganuru Village, Bidarahalli Hobli,Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 7.63 meter(25 feet) and North to South: 9.81+9.66)/2 meter [(32.18+31.69)/2 feet] totally measuring 74.28 Sq.mtrs. (798 Sq.ft.) and bounded by: East by: 30 feet Road, West by: Site No.48, North by:40 feet Road, South by: Site No.49.
22	Ms. Amruta M Narayanakar Loan A/C No. 410500003425	27/11/2023	Rs.4654270.00 (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Only)	"A" SCHEDULE : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND bearing Survey No.18/1, and 19/1 of Valgerahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore measuring 36421.74 Sqm and bounded as follows: East to west: (257.76+279.81)/2 Mtr North to South: (165.25+107.68)/2 Mtr Boundaries: On the East: Sy No.20/8, KHB Property On the West: 9.00 Mtr wide BDA Road On the North: 30.00 Mtr Wide BDA Road On the South: 9.00 Mtr Wide BDA Road "B" SCHEDULE : Entire Survey No.18/1 measuring 12859.77 Sqm and Western Part of Survey No.19/1 measuring 11552.86 Sqm. Totally 24412.37 Sqm bounded as follows: East to West: (170.32+150.52)/2 Mtr North to South: (165.26+126.51)/2 Mtr BOUNDARIES: On the East: Part of Sy.No.19/1, KHB Property On the West: CA Site & 9.00 Mtr wide BDA Road On the North: 30.00 Mtr wide BDA Road On the South: CA Site & 9.00 Mtr wide BDA Road "C" SCHEDULE : Apartment bearing No.A-0702 on the 7th Floor in Block No."A' measuring SBA of 94.29 Sqm (Ninety Four Point Twenty Nine Only) inclusive of proportionate share of common area & consisting of Hall/ Kitchen/Balconies/Wash Area/and 2 Bed Rooms/2 Toilets cum Bath Rooms. The Apartment being marked in red color in the plan annexed hereto, related undivided right, title and interest in the land comprised in the "B" Schedule Property is 28.31 Sqm [24412.37 Sqm(Extent of Land) 81320.142 Sqm (Total Super Built-up area) X 94.29 Sqm (Super Built up Area of Unit)]. Bounded on: East: Flat No.A-0703 West: Flat No.A-0701 North: Open to Sky South: Lobby and Open to Sky.

Date: 26.12.2023 Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer

EDITORIAL

"Howsoever great the difference in viewpoints, we are all meeting as representatives of the nation for one common cause, which is to secure for all citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity

Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

WRESTLING TAKES BIGGER HIT AS FEDERATION MESS CONTINUES

THE world has moved 365 days ahead but wrestling has not moved a day. The sport has remained stagnant ever since the start of protests in January and culminated in another bizarre episode on Sunday. After numerous warnings from the United World Wrestling (UWW), the court paved the way for elections at the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Thursday. Three days later, the sports ministry suspended the WFI. Under pressure, former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing sexual harassment charges from the top wrestlers, said he was retiring from all affairs related to wrestling. What baffles is the question what stopped him from doing it earlier this year; things could have been different if he had.

The signs were ominous when Singh's panel came into power with a resounding 13-2 win in the 15-member committee. The protesting wrestlers—Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, and multiple World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat—were stunned after their candidate, former Commonwealth Games champion Anita Sheoran, was beaten 40-7 by Brij Bhushan's close aide Sanjay Singh. Only the posts of senior vice president and secretary went to the wrestlers' faction. Sakshi announced her retirement and Bajrang returned his Padma Shri in protest. Opposition MPs started supporting the wrestlers and things looked rather embarrassing, and had started taking a political turn before the sports ministry stepped in. What irked the new secretary and perhaps intimidated the wrestlers was the haste with which the WFI acted. The new WFI executive committee cancelled all decisions taken by the last ad hoc panel that was running the sport before the elections. The WFI chief called for junior nationals in Gonda, Brij Bhushan's stronghold. Then he announced the senior nationals. The secretary cried foul and said the decisions were taken without his knowledge and were against the constitution. The UWW has already suspended the federation for third-party interference.

In the end, it is the wrestlers who suffered the most. There were hardly any national camps. Barring a handful, including Vinesh, Sakshi and Bajrang, there were hardly any exposure trips for senior wrestlers. The juniors were the worst affected. Since the U15 and U20 nationals were not held this year, their one year of training went waste. Understandably, jobs based on wrestling performances took a hit and, without medals to show, promotion and other remunerations would have stopped.

ENSURE SMOOTH SAILING FOR VIZHINJAM LINKAGES

KERALA had welcomed the first ship at Vizhinjam International Seaport with much jubilation as it marked the realisation of a decade's developmental aspiration for the state. Being the southern tip of India, Vizhinjam is strategically poised to consolidate and transfer Indian and regional cargo to mainline vessels at lower costs than routing them via Colombo. It is also an ideal fuel bunkering location for international vessels. The port, with its proximity to international shipping routes connecting Europe, Persian Gulf and East Asia, is said to be having the potential to be a game changer for commerce as well as tourism in the state.

But there seems to be a catch. The state's financial crunch is now delaying the development of road connectivity between the Vizhinjam port and the nearby NH66. While the Adani Group is responsible for developing the road, the land needed for the work has to be acquired by the state government, which owns the port. The project involves constructing a 2-km, four-lane road to link the port with the national highway. Any delay in ensuring connectivity between the port with the rest of the country will annul all the possibilities that Vizhinjam is capable of. The company will be able to initiate the tender proceedings for constructing the approach road after getting the NHAI's approval; the NHAI will grant final approval only after the state government completes the formalities regarding land acquisition.

The state's financial duress is a reality. But the government should not allow that to affect a project like Vizhinjam, which is capable of turning around the state's economy. The state government must earmark a special fund towards this purpose and must also set a deadline for the project's completion. Without proper connectivity, the port, expected to be fully functional by the end of 2024, will not be able to realise its full potential. Indian ports suffer from a woeful lack of capacity; Vizhinjam, with its natural depth, is a solution to that. Keeping this in mind, the state and Union governments must work together and address every bottleneck associated with the project at the earliest.

QUICK TAKE

LEARN FROM TAMIL NADU SCHOOLS

THE Karnataka school education minister has said he would ban students sitting on classroom floors. The minister would do well to look at the system adopted in neighbouring Tamil Nadu's 35,000-plus primary schools over the last two decades. The state's activity-based learning system, which was partly inspired by innovations in some Karnataka schools, mandates that students and teachers would sit on the floor in small circles; it flows from research that showed such an arrangement promotes peer learning and reduced the imperiousness of pedagogy. All the teacher unions in Tamil Nadu initially objected to the arrangement; but they saw the benefits and fell in line.

The Lok Sabha speaker and Rajya Sabha chairman need to conduct proceedings in a non-partisan way. This isn't the parliamentary democracy our forefathers dreamed of

HOUSE LEADERS NEED TO RISE ABOVE POLITICS

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOURAV ROY

ON May 19, 2014, Narendra Modi bent his forehead while kneeling at the steps of the old parliament building before entering the Central Hall. It was here where Jawaharlal Nehru made his famous address on the eve of independence, ushering the dawn of democracy in India. That symbolic gesture was never meant to be an act of faith. Instead of democracy being nurtured in the haloed chambers of parliament, it was diminished and smothered. Under Modi, it is gasping for breath.

In June 2016, at a '*parivartan*' rally in Allahabad, Modi laid down seven mantras for party workers: *sevabhaav* (service), *santulan* (balance), *sanyam* (restraint), *samanwaya* (cooperation), sakaratmak (positivity), *sadbhavna* (empathy) and *samvad* (dialogue). These mantras were stated to be breached in the governance of India.

All this was not meant to be. The government, the BJP and their affiliates command cooperation and seek obedience in both their parliamentary and public discourse without a sense of balance or restraint. Empathy and dialogue are enemy territory. That India has been transformed after 2014 and that the history of the era prior to Modi is a saga of failures of Congress rule is the extent of negativity and venom that this administration harbours.

Attempts to efface history, building monuments demonstrating cultural hegemony, targeting minorities by encouraging divisive agendas, misusing institutional power to break resistance to government programmes perceived to be unjust, and silencing people by the threat of prosecution are a part of a well-planned enterprise seeking legitimacy under the umbrella of the so-called Hindu faith. Giving a religious colour to all government and BJP initiatives makes for a State that seeks to function in a manner entirely inconsistent with our constitutional values—which are, and can be the only *dharma* of governance.

Recent events in parliament and their aftermath suggest that Modi's India has breached this *dharma* and the government's actions are entirely incompatible with our constitutional values. The symbol of our sovereignty—parliament—was intruded into by miscreants. A serious breach of security by different mindsets could have resulted in complete mayhem, threatening the lives of our public representatives. It was natural for the members of both the Houses of parliament to expect either the prime minister or the home minister to make a statement in both the Houses, not just to express their concerns but to assure the MPs that systems will be put in place to ensure that such a security breach is never repeated. The demand of the opposition for such a statement, though legitimate, was rejected.

Paying scant respect, in fact showing disdain, to such a demand led to the opposition's insistence, which in turn impacted the functioning of both the Houses of parliament. The result: 146 suspensions, 100 from the Lok Sabha and 46 from the Rajya Sabha.

There was yet another incident in which a member of the Lok Sabha expressed angst at the manner in which the chairman of the Rajya Sabha had been conducting proceedings. The chairman took up the issue and gave it a caste bias, suggesting that such 'mimicry' was also a slur on the caste that he represented. This gave an unwarranted twist to an act which could not have been construed as an affront to the caste of the chairman.

This brings me to the real issue. The speaker of the Lok Sabha, though affiliated to a political party, represents the House, not the majority party in power. This also holds true of the chairman of the Rajya Sabha. In their respective capacities, they represent the will of their respective Houses and cannot be perceived to act in a partisan manner. If this constitutional position is not accepted then those occupying these offices are seen to be partisan towards the party in power. This is a matter of deep concern.

One, it vitiates the proceedings in the House and gives the proceedings a political colour. Two, it allows for accusations which in an ideal democracy should not be made against either the chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the speaker of the Lok Sabha. The proceedings in the House should never be conducted in a manner which suggests that the opposition is being bulldozed and its voice muzzled. The frequent directions from the chair which prevent the opposition protests from being broadcast to the public at large, the frequent shutting down of microphones of the opposition members when they are protesting, the manner in which members are reprimanded for their alleged conduct are matters which do not display the dignity with which proceedings ought to be conducted in the House.

It is a matter of history that, in the past, the MPs of the political party that is on the treasury benches today ensured the stalling of the Lok Sabha for an entire session. The BJP has no moral grounds to throttle the voice of the opposition, especially when their demand was legitimate.

Apart from this, the treasury benches have ensured that the opposition is not allowed to discuss matters of great import to the nation. If the opposition is to be denied the right to voice its concerns on matters of national interest, if the opposition is demeaned in the manner that we have seen in the recent past, if the members of the opposition are suspended, if the proceedings of the Committee of Privileges are conducted in a manner that is contrary to the basic principles of fair play, then the question that we must ask ourselves is whether this is the parliamentary democracy that our forefathers had dreamed of. The clear answer is a resounding 'No'.

So where do we go from here? If the BJP is given another term in office, the level of intolerance will be several notches higher. Democracy will be stymied and what will be left of it will only be a shell. It is for the people of this country to change this narrative.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

SEARCHING FOR INDIANNESS IN THE NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

C P SURENDRAN

Poet, novelist and screenplay writer. His latest novel is *One Love and the Many Lives of Osip B*

LAST Thursday, Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three new criminal bills in the Rajya Sabha. The bills are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya bill. The House passed them by a voice vote. It is doubtful if most MPs knew what they raised their hands for.

The bills are meant to replace the existing Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act—legacies of the British Raj. Introducing the bills, Amit Shah said in his characteristic combative style the new laws in "soul, body and thought" were *Bharatiya*". But is that enough?

Perhaps we have arrived at that strange point in history where crime and its punishment can be branded slightly superior if they are made in India?

The lay public, like the MPs they elected, remains largely ignorant of what the Indianisation of the laws means—despite the noise of information exploding all around us.

The Congress-led opposition has no presence in parliament following the recent suspension of 146 MPs. But, even if they were all present, throwing light on an issue has not always been their forte. As an aside, I must mention here that this is the time for all Congress MPs, if they were imaginative, to resign as a gesture of general protest, milk it for what it is, and run to their constituencies for 2024 election work. But they are sitting around outside parliament doing mimicry.

Amit Shah explained that the new laws were different from the old. For example, detention in police custody from the current 15-day limit is now up to 90 days. Does that sound good? It doesn't to me.

The new law decriminalises homosexuality and adultery; which is good. But why did you have to 'indigenise' the law for it to be humane? Homosexuality and adultery are no longer criminal offences in most of the Western world.

The definition of sedition has shifted emphasis from '*rajdroh*' to '*deshdroh*'. The first refers to words and acts against an elected government; the latter to speaking or working against the country's interests. But we are not clear when an elected government ends and the nation begins. Especially if the government belongs to a nationalist party like the BJP.

The sedition law is of special importance in the present political climate. Because it involves the question: can I criticise India and still be a true Indian?

The contemporary Indian discourse is nothing if not a quasi-second Freedom Struggle—but this time the BJP is freeing India from the comprador yoke of the Congress party.

If the ruling party's role is taken at face value, how do you disassociate it from the role of a freedom fighter without running the risk of being branded a potential seditionist?

In the same breath, what would be the implications of '*deshdroh*' for those like Umar Khalid (now three years in prison), or for *NewsClick* editor Prabir Purkaryastha (booked under UAPA)? How would they fare in the post-Macaulay avatar of the criminal bills? In short, do these laws give the accused more benefit of the doubt than their British versions?

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

If the new penal code isn't much different from the one drafted by Thomas Macaulay during the British Raj, why is the opposition clamouring against it? On the other hand, there are some genuine concerns such as how sedition is being redefined

Despite the 24-hour presence of social media, the ordinary Indian lives in ignorance of the meaning of what might matter to him/her the most, not knowing that he/she stands a good chance of breaking some law with every breath that they take.

Predictably, the liberal press said the new bills were 'draconian'. They did not explain how. The 'Gita' press celebrated the bills as yet another feather in Prime Minister Modi's cap, the one that he never seems to take off. Neither categorisation explains much.

Ironies abound. A day or so after the Rajya Sabha session that passed the bills—hundreds of ayes, no nays, which says something about the peculiar crisis that grips India's parliamentary democracy—former Union minister and Congress leader P Chidambaram tweeted: "Consider the fact 90-95 percent of IPC, 95 percent of CrPC, and 99% of Evidence Act have been cut, copied and pasted in the three bills... the government has immortalised Macaulay and [James Fitzjames] Stephen who drafted the original IPC and Evidence Act. The opportunity to replace and redraft the laws has been wasted."

If a highly knowledgeable leader like Chidambaram is saying 95 percent of the bills is a cut-paste job, why is the Congress against them? On the other hand, if the laws have been radically rewritten, why doesn't the opposition hit the town and village squares and explain how we have not benefited from the changes?

Consider a social media post last week by Rajdeep Sardesai. "Section 69 of the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita says: Whoever, by deceitful means or by making a promise to marry to a woman without any intention of fulfilling the same, and has sexual intercourse with her, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years and shall also be liable to fine. Just think of what this one section could do to relationships: you break up with your partner, she can then accuse you of deceit, and you could face 10 years imprisonment. Crazily dangerous: hope someone reviews it and ensures adequate safeguards!"

Who will ensure 'adequate safeguards'? Clearly, the parliamentary crisis of the last few weeks has a direct bearing on us: we are passing laws that might put any one of us in prison for errors of omission and commission. It is little consolation that they now have an Indian name and a Devanagari script.

(Views are personal)
(cpsurendran@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Winning minds

Ref: *Win the confidence of locals to contain militancy in J&K* (Dec 25). Yes, the Indian army should win the confidence of locals and try to make amends. Only then can the problem of terrorism be solved. We should always remember that battles cannot be won only with heavy artillery and retaliation. As humans, our intelligence should be our weapon to win any war.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Punish wrong-doers

Ref: *End child marriage with incentives* (Dec 25). I don't agree with this approach because it will usher in unscrupulous child marriage to get the incentives. The best way is to punish the wrong-doers by identifying them with the help of social workers who should be given some authority so THAT they can book such cases under the law.
K Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

Revamp party

Ref: *Senior party leaders' conviction blow to DMK* (Dec 25). Historically, the Supreme Court usually upholds high court verdicts in corruption cases. Many others of the party are also in for a similar fate as Ponmudy. Conviction of one minister after the other will tarnish the party's image and also affect prospects of the INDIA alliance. The DMK would do well to do a thorough revamp.
G Nataraja Perumal, Tenkasi

Gospel goodness

Ref: *How Prophet Isaiah enriches the spirit of Christmas* (Dec 25). Renuka Narayanan' article is a clear testimony of her vast knowledge of not only the Gita and Ramayan, but the Bible too. It was a pleasure to read her article narrating even the minute details of the gospels.
NA Joseph, Kottayam

Harsh words

Ref: *Sudhakaran terms Pinarayi 'psychopath'* (Dec 25). Though Kerala Congress president K Sudhakaran was a bit late in using the word 'psychopath' against CM Pinarayi Vijayan, this usage assumes enormous significance. The CM's present attitude shows a Hitlerian mentality in decimating opposition protests.
K R Parvathy, Mysuru

Wrestlers' call

Former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Singh has distanced himself from the wrestling body after it was suspended. However, Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment, backed the WFI's decision to announce the U-15 and U-20 nationals. This has happened for the betterment of wrestlers. It is the victory wrestlers have been fighting for.
Mohd Taukir, Bettiah

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Good to see @narendramodi acknowledge the contribution of Christians in freedom struggle, with a nod to my Alma Mater St Stephen's College as well!

P. Chidambaram @PChidambaram_IN
Just as the Christmas Day celebrations are coming to an end, we hear the news that the President has given her assent to the three criminal law Bills.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
The BJP government is spreading fake news about dissolving the wrestling association. Have to go to this level to supress voice of an aggrieved woman?

'Must send strong response to ship attack'

90% of India's trade travels over the seas; keeping these lines open is vital: Indian Maritime Foundation vice president

COMMODORE **Anil Jai Singh** (Retd) is Vice President Indian Maritime Foundation, an organisation of former naval and merchant marine officers with a goal to raise awareness about oceans and inspire maritime consciousness among people. **Mayank Singh** speaks with the Commodore about the significance of the recent incidents of hijacking of MV Ruen, the reported drone attacks on MV Chem Pluto and MV Sai Baba; and how geopolitics will affect India.

There is a rise in maritime incidents involving the merchant vessels which includes a hijack and two incidents of attacks. What do these signify?
By introducing the maritime dimension into the conflict by attacking merchant shipping in the Red Sea, the Israel-Hamas conflict has grabbed global attention. The longer this conflict, the more will be the involvement of groups such as the Houthis who are sympathetic to the Hamas' cause. Currently the conflict has been largely localised between Israel and Gaza, and there is no third country being directly involved in the conflict. With 90% of global trade travelling over the seas, any threat to its safe passage will start affecting countries across the globe. With the US and other navies deploying warships in the Red Sea to escort and protect merchant ships, there is a possibility of retaliation and consequently, the risk of escalation of the conflict.

How is it going to affect the maritime traffic in the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean?
At the moment most maritime traffic from Europe to Asia transits through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. By attacking ships in the Red Sea, shipping traffic is now getting diverted around the Cape of Good Hope. This increases; both travel time and fuel expense. On the contrary, if ships continue transiting through the Red Sea, then they will have to pay very high insurance costs. In either case, there will be economic fallout on the movement of trade with an exponential effect on the global economy. For example, the grounding of the MV Ever Given in the Suez Canal a couple of years ago resulted in the blockage of the canal for five days or so led to an economic loss of over $400 million per hour. Imagine the effects now with the travel time increasing by more than a week.
(With $200 billion of India's trade flows with Europe, North America and South America at risk due to the blockage of the Suez Canal, the Department of Commerce worked out an action plan to cope with the crisis, including possibly re-routing shipments through the Cape of Good Hope.)

Verbatim

By introducing the maritime dimension into the conflict by attacking merchant shipping in the Red Sea, the Israel-Hamas conflict has grabbed global attention. The longer this conflict, the more will be the involvement of groups such as the Houthis who are sympathetic to the Hamas' cause.

Anil Jai Singh (Retd), Vice President Indian Maritime Foundation

What are India's primary areas of interest as far as the sea lanes of communication are concerned?
Around 90% of India's trade and 80% of its energy (oil & gas) travels over the sea. Therefore, keeping our sea lines of communication safe and open is a critical requirement for India. Our primary area of interest is the Indian Ocean and the adjoining seas are its secondary areas of interest. But the secondary areas of interest are also of great importance for the safe movement of its trade since the access to the Indian Ocean is bound by critical choke-points In this case, it is the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb (between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula; it connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and by extension the Indian Ocean). We have to keep it safe and open.

Is there any link of the prevailing geopolitics with the way incidents have happened?
Definitely. The India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) comes immediately to mind. This may not be in the interest of some nations who will not be keen to see it succeed. From a geopolitical perspective, a stable West Asia is very important for India. We have a large diaspora in the region, a lot of our energy requirements are met from there and it offers a link to the Atlantic. India has taken the initiative in promoting the IMEC and the I2U2 (India-Israel-USA-UAE), besides other bilateral arrangements to promote our interests in the region. Any political uncertainty is bound to impact us in one way or another.
(The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor IMEC was signed at the G20 Summit in New Delhi, which holds significant geopolitical and economic implications for India. The project forms part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII).

What should be India's approach in keeping its interests secure?
India should not get directly involved in the Israel-Hamas conflict and ensure the safety of its own shipping. However, if our shipping is deliberately attacked, then we must send a strong response/ warning that while we may not be directly involved in the conflict, we will not accept any compromise to our national interest.

The Indian Navy has been quick in its responses with the forward deployments as per its maritime domain awareness plans. Is it helping?
India takes pride in being the first responder in the Indo-Pacific. Because of its multi-mission deployment, Indian ships are deployed in various parts of the Indo-Pacific at any given time and are therefore able to respond quickly to any developing situation. Stealth destroyer INS Kochi was promptly redeployed to shadow the hijacked vessel MV Ruen, We also successfully evacuated an injured member of the merchant vessel's crew.

Navy: Initial probe shows drone attack on merchant ship

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THE Indian Navy's preliminary assessment of the Merchant Vessel Chem Pluto on Monday has pointed "towards a drone attack."

"The analysis of the area of attack and debris found on the ship point to a drone attack. However, further forensic and technical analysis will be required to establish the vector of attack, including type and amount of explosive used," The Indian Navy said in a statement. MV Chem Pluto, a merchant ship, arrived at the Mumbai port on Monday under the protection of Indian Coast Guard ship ICGS Vikram. The vessel is a Liberia-flagged, Japanese-owned and Netherlands-operated chemical tanker. It was struck in the Indian Ocean, 200 nautical miles from the coast of India on December 23.

The Navy said a joint investigation by various agencies has commenced on completion of the analysis by the Navy's ordnance team.

On her arrival, the Navy's ordnance disposal team inspected the vessel to make a preliminary assessment.

The merchant vessel, which was transporting crude oil from Saudi Arabia to Mangalore, was over 200 nautical miles southwest of Veraval in the Arabian Sea when it was hit by a drone.

Naval deterrence

Indian Navy says it has deployed guided missile destroyers, INS Mormugao, INS Kochi and INS Kolkata to maintain a deterrent presence. Besides long-range maritime reconnaissance P8I aircraft are being regularly tasked to maintain domain awareness

MV Chem Pluto has been cleared for further operation by her company-in-charge at Mumbai, the Navy said.

The ship is scheduled to undergo mandatory checks by various inspecting authorities before undertaking Ship to Ship (STS) transfer of cargo.

This is likely to be followed by docking and repairs of the damaged portion of MV Chem Pluto. Following incidents of hijack/drone attacks, the Navy has enhanced its deterrence presence, pressing warships into operational deployment.

PM praises role of Christians in healthcare, edu

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hailed the contribution of the Christian community in the nation building, saying that it has always been at the forefront to serve the poor and the deprived.

The Prime Minister was hosting eminent members of the community at his residence on the occasion of Christmas.

Quoting a verse from the Holy Bible, the Prime Minister said,"Whatever gift God has given should be utilized to serve others". Gandhi ji had himself said that the Non-Cooperation Movement was conceived under the patronage of Sushil Kumar Rudra- principal of St Stephen's College during the freedom struggle, the PM said.

"Even today, institutions of the Christian community are making a huge contribution in important areas like education and healthcare", he said, and urged those associated with education and healthcare to educate the people on the issues.

Lauding their services in social sectors, Modi also requested the community to work towards making earth a better planet for future generations.

"There is a tradition of giving gifts on Christmas. Let us take this opportunity to consider how we can gift a better planet to future generations. Sustainability is the need of today's time and living a sustainable lifestyles the central message of Mission LiFE," the prime minister asserted.

He also said that Mission LiFE is now an international movement being led by India inspiring pro-planet people to adopt pro-planet lifestyle.

The prime minister also called upon them to promote the concept of 'vocal for local' by becoming ambassadors of goods made in India as part of service to the nation.

"With the success of mantra of Vocal for Local, employment and self-employment of lakhs of small entrepreneurs of the country is linked. That is way I would like to request that they continue to receive guidance from you all to become more vocal for local Christian co munity," Modi urged.

Recalling his meeting the Holy Pope, Modi said that he discussed several issues, including climate change and global brotherhood, with him.

He said Jesus lived the values of compassion and service and worked to create a society in which justice to all prevails.

On the occasion, some Christian members also spoke and praised several initiatives of the Modi government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Christian community members during Christmas celebrations in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

On Christmas, CJI lauds role of Poonch martyrs

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@New Delhi

AS the nation celebrated Christmas on Monday, Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud remembered the four Army personnel who lost their lives in the last week's terrorist ambush in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the Christmas day programme at the Supreme Court, the CJI said, "We lost four members of our armed forces a few days ago, so as we celebrate Christmas, let us not forget those who are protecting us from borders.

"When we sing, we also sing for them in celebration. The message of Jesus Christ's life was to sacrifice for the betterment of our citizens' lives," he added. Underscoring that the soldiers guard the nation even in the harshest of weather conditions, Justice Chandrachud said, "Let's not forget those on the borders who are spending these cold mornings protecting us and our nation and citizens."

He also sang Christmas carols during the celebrations.

'Distressing when history judges the presiding officers harshly for bills...'

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

RESPONDING to an invitation by Rajya Sabha chairperson Jagdeep Dhankar for a meeting at his residence on Monday, Congress chief **Mallikarjun Kharge** wrote to the former expressing his inability to meet him as he is currently away from Delhi and suggested a meeting after he returns.

Both have been exchanging letters regarding disruptions in Parliament and the suspension of 146 opposition MPs.

In a two-page letter, Kharge said that he agrees with the House chairman's call to all members to rise above their differences. "I agree with you that we need to move ahead. The answer lies in holding ours true to the Constitution, Parliament and innate belief in democracy vis-a-vis an authoritarian government that is bent upon subverting the Parliament. I would like to state with all humility that the answer may not lie in a discussion in your chambers if the government is not keen on running the house."

He added, "The Chairman is the custodian of the house and should be at the forefront to uphold the dignity of the House, defend Parliamentary privileges, and protect people's right of holding its government accountable through the debates, discussion and reply in Parliament."

He said that the Chairman's letter 'unfortunately justifies the autocratic and arrogant attitude of the government towards Parliament and the ruling party has 'weaponized' the suspension of MPs as a tool to 'undermine democracy, sabotage Parliamentary practices and throttle the Constitution.'

In a letter to Kharge dated December 23, Dhankhar said that the disruptions during the winter session of Parliament which led to the suspension of 146 MPs were 'deliberate and strategized'.

Dhankhar said that he had to 'painfully' suffer in the Upper House the consequences of the Congress leader's decision to turn down the former's offer of interaction in his chamber.

In his reply, Kharge said that by suspending MPs, the government is silencing the voice of the voters. "It would be distressing when history judges the presiding officers harshly for bills passed without debate and not seeking accountability from government," he said.

"You have also mentioned that the disorder was predetermined. If anything, it is the mass suspension of the MPs that seems to be predetermined. I am sorry to say, executed without any application of mind, as can be seen by the suspension of an INDIA party MP who was not even present in the Parliament," he said.

Letter justifies autocratic attitude of govt: Kharge

Kharge said that the Chairman's letter 'unfortunately justifies the autocratic and arrogant attitude of the government towards Parliament and the ruling party has 'weaponized' the suspension of MPs as a tool to 'undermine democracy, sabotage Parliamentary practices and throttle the Constitution.'

276 Indians to return, 23 seeking asylum 'decide' to stay back in France

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

FOUR days after 303 passengers (299 Indian and 4 Nepalese) were grounded in Vatry, France, on suspicion of being trafficked, 276 are returning to India, while 23 have sought asylum. The same aircraft that was taking them to Nicargua, Legend Airlines, will fly them to Mumbai with a brief stopover in Fujirah.

"There are 276 passengers on board the aircraft returning to Mumbai as 23 have stayed back, seeking asylum. The other passengers voluntarily returned to India. Out of the total number of passengers (303) that were grounded, four are from Nepal. While two passengers have been detained by the French authorities as they want to investigate them further," said a source.

There were 11 unaccompanied minors. The age group of minors ranged from 21 months to 17 years, the source said.

The two detained passengers are being interrogated for their role in human trafficking. In France, human trafficking can lead to up to 20 years of imprisonment.

"We thank the French government and Vatry airport for a quick resolution of the situation enabling Indian passengers to return home, besides their hospitality. Also, for working closely with the Indian embassy team, present throughout the site to ensure welfare and smooth and safe return. We thank the agencies in India too," said the Indian Embassy in France.

The investigation in France was carried out with the help of translators. Media was kept away from the airport and tarpaulin was used to cover the façade. The passengers were provided beds, food and toilet facilities.

It is learnt that the take-off from Vatry got delayed after some passengers sought asylum. While some demanded that they should be flown to Nicaragua as per the original plan. "There was a lot of confusion as to how many passengers would eventually leave for India. The departure got delayed," according to Liliana Bakayoko, lawyer for the Romania-based airline.

63 cases of new Covid variant, officials say don't panic

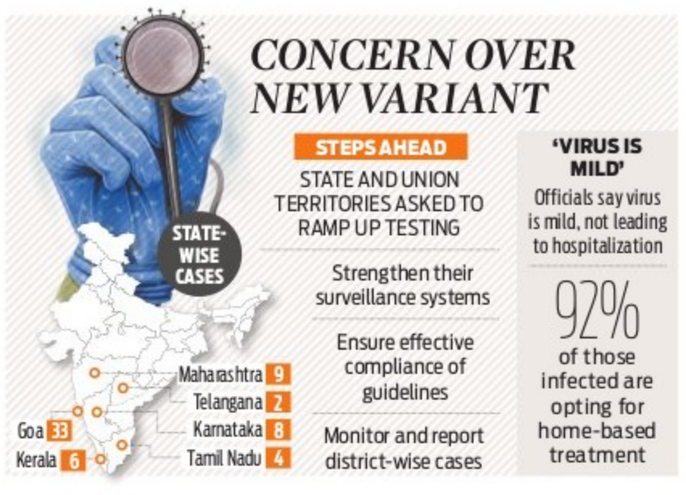
KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @New Delhi

SIXTY-three cases of Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 were reported in the country, including 34 in Goa, official sources said on Monday. However, they added that the new strain is not leading to any severity or hospitalisations.

Dr N K Arora, India SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) head said, "They are monitoring the situation and will be able tell in a few weeks about how the new sub variant is behaving clinically in India."

"We must wait and see how this new virus expands in India. It is good to be vigilant, but we should not panic. The virus is mild and it is not leading to hospitalisations," he added.

Even though the number of cases is rising, there is no cause of immediate concern as 92 per cent of those infected are opting for home-based treatment, indicating a mild illness, officials said.



According to the officials, 63 cases of JN.1, which is leading a surge in Covid-19 cases in the US, China, and Singapore, were reported till Sunday, of which the maximum was from Goa.

It is followed by Maharashtra (9), Karnataka (8), Kerala (6), Tamil Nadu (4) and Telangana (2). Arora said that one of the reasons for Goa reporting the maximum number of cases could be an increase in domestic and international tourists due to festive season.

He said that there has been a dip in Covid testing. He said, "In the recent meeting, all the state and union territories were asked to ramp up testing as it has dipped. We have to see how the virus behaves in the coming three to four weeks as testing ramps up," he said.

Stressing that each virus behaves different, he said that they must see how the new strain impacts India. While Omicron's BA.4 and BA.5 wreaked havoc globally, it did not have much impact in India, he said. Arora said apart from the Delta variant, no other variants have caused that much damage and deaths in India. "Omicron has 55 subvariants. But it did not threaten India as seriously as Delta did."

He, however, said that those above 60 years and high-risk people who are co-morbid should be careful and follow precautions. "They have to be very careful. If they have a common cold, then they should get tested. If they face any health concerns, they should immediately seek medical advice." He added that only those people should take the vaccine who are co-morbid and have not taken precautionary or the third dose.

INMATES FLEE

Six teenaged inmates of a government reformation home in Nagpur have escaped from the facility after assaulting the guards on duty, a police official said on Monday.

1 KILLED — ONE HURT IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN J'KHAND

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	15	28	Mumbai	24	34
Bhopal	12	27	Panaji	25	35
Jaipur	12	24	Patna	12	26
Amritsar	07	22	Lucknow	09	23
Chennai	25	30	Port Blair	26	31
Kolkata	14	25	Imphal	10	23
Srinagar	-2	11	Chandigarh	06	22

Ex-Union ministers among 28 sworn in

Prahlad Singh Patel, Kailash Vijayvargiya take oath; Only 6 from Chouhan cabinet get berth

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

THE much-awaited first cabinet expansion of the newly elected Dr Mohan Yadav-led BJP government finally happened on Monday, with the induction of 28 ministers, among them 18 cabinet ministers and ten ministers of state.

The 18 cabinet ministers, included four political biggies – ex-union minister Prahlad Singh Patel, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya (both were in CM's race before Yadav was elected BJP state legislature party leader on December 12), former Jabalpur MP and ex-state party chief Rakesh Singh and third time former MP from Hoshangabad seat Uday Pratap Singh.

The 28 new ministers, however, only included six ministers of the previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan regime, including Tulsi Silawat, Pradumn Singh Tomar, Govind Singh Rajput (all Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalists), Vishvas Sarang, Kunwar Vijay Shah and Inder Singh Parmar, all of who were among the 18 new cabinet ministers. Ten other ministers of the previous regime, including the former CM's loyalist Bhupendra Singh and nine-time sitting MLA Gopal Bhargava, were not considered in Dr Yadav's team.

Region wise break-up of the new ministry saw the new CM's home region – the Malwa-Nimar region (which houses maximum 66 assembly seats – cornering seven posts, followed by six from the central MP, 5 ministers from tribal dominated Mahakoshal region, four each from Gwalior-Chambal and Bundelkhand regions and two from Vindhya region. With the CM and one of the deputy CMs also being from Malwa-Nimar region, the number of ministers from that area in the 31-strong council of ministers now stands at nine.

With Monday's cabinet expansion, Dr Yadav's council of ministers now has 31 ministers (including the CM and two deputy CMs), which means there is scope for four more inductions in the future.

On expected lines, the OBCs dominated the new council of ministers headed by the OBC Dr Yadav. Out of the 28 new ministers sworn in on Monday, 12 (43%) hailed from OBC castes. Importantly, MP has around 52% OBC population, followed by 21% tribal and 16% scheduled caste population.

After the OBCs, the upper caste segment had seven ministers (25% of new ministers), five tribals (18%) and four scheduled caste MLAs (which was 14% of 28 new ministers).

The 28 new MLAs sworn in as ministers by Governor Mangubhai C Patel at the Raj Bhawan on Monday, included just five women (18% of those sworn in on Monday), among them former minister Nirmala Bhuria, ex Rajya Sabha member Sampatiya Uike (both sworn in as cabinet ministers) and three new faces, including second time MLA from Govindpura (Bhopal) Krishna Gaur (who is the daughter in law of ex-CM Babulal Gaur) and first time MLAs from Vindhya region Pratima Bagri and Radha Singh. In the previous BJP regime, merely three out of the 34 ministers were women.

Age has emerged a key factor for inducting or dropping ministers, with 70-years-old ex-minister MLA Gopal Bhargava not being considered owing to age.

Governor Mangubhai Patel administers oath at Raj Bhavan, in Bhopal on Monday | PTI

MP CABINET

- 28 new ministers represent 20 of 29 LS constituencies
- Total number of ministers: 31, including CM, 2 Dy CMs
- 4 ministerial berths are still vacant.
- 7 ministers are from Malwa-Nimar region, where BJP won 47 of 66 seats.
- 6 new ministers hail from central MP, where BJP won 31 of 36 seats
- 5 of 28 new ministers are from Mahakoshal, where won 21 of 38 seats
- 4 ministers each come from Gwalior-Chambal and Bundelkhand regions
- Only 2 ministers are from Vindhya region, where the BJP won 25 of 30 seats

C'garh hands out 2-yr paddy bonus to 11 lakh farmers

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh government, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, observed 'Good Governance Day' and executed one of its poll promises that the party cited as 'Modi Ki Guarantee' for the state's paddy farmers.

Chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai disbursed the pending paddy bonus amount of ₹3,716 crore of the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 (earlier BJP's regime) to 11.76 lakh farmers during the state-level event at Bendri village in Raipur district.

"It's a historic day. We have met the third Modi ki Guarantee by fulfilling the promise given to the farmers. The state government has begun procurement of 21 quintals of paddy per acre at ₹3,100 per quintal. If required, we will extend the date (31 January next year) of procurement of paddy. We will fulfil what we promised. The entire country now trusts Modi ki Guarantee," Sai said.

The BJP government in its first cabinet has approved the construction of houses for 18 lakh poor needy families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, he added. The bonus amounts were transferred to bank their accounts.

The farmers during their video-conferencing conversation with the CM appreciated the decision of the state government. "I have received ₹23,280 in my bank account", said Ram Pal, a farmer from Mahasamund district, while talking to the CM. "We have never thought of getting the bonus amount", said another peasant Bishesar Ram Sahu from Balod district, after he received ₹89,640.

The farmers have received the bonus (under the incentive scheme) at the rate of ₹300 per quintal for the paddy procured at the minimum support price in the given two years.

Part of poll promise

The BJP executed one of its poll promises that the party cited as 'Modi Ki Guarantee' for the state's paddy farmers. Chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai called it a historic day. He said that the part has met the third Modi ki Guarantee by fulfilling the promise given to the farmers. The bonus amounts were transferred to bank their accounts

LUCKNOW DIARY

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PM to have roadshow in Ayodhya

As a precursor to the big consecration day in Ayodhya on January 22 next year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take a mini trip to the temple town on December 30 to launch the international airport, renovated railway station, and lay the foundation stone for projects worth `3,000 crore. The highlight of the visit, apart from his public meeting, is a roadshow the PM will hold in the town, covering 15 km. "After the public meeting near the airport, the PM will travel from the airport to the railway station, which will be in the form of a roadshow. Arrangements are being made to welcome him," says a senior official.

Pande, 'a dyed in the wool' Congman

The newly-appointed Congress general secretary in charge for UP is a low-key but a very old party loyalist. Former Rajya Sabha member Avinash Pandey, who replaced Priyanka Gandhi as the Congress in charge of UP hails from Nagpur. The 65-year-old started his political career with the NSUI and rose through the ranks. He is known as an organisation man and has served as the in charge of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Besides, he has worked closely with Digvijaya Singh and Madhusudan Mistry when they were looking after the party's affairs in UP.

BSP maintains its exclusion in INDIA

Although the elections to five state assemblies are now long over, the INDIA block is yet to take shape in UP. Despite Mayawati's denial, the biggest question still remains: whether BSP will be part of the grand opposition alliance. The BSP supremo has been asserting that she would do it alone as her party always remains on the losing side in an alliance, however, her cryptic remark recently has made the analysts take notice. "INDIA bloc parties should be cautious while making remarks about BSP as one never knows who will need them in the post-poll scenario," she said. RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary said, "BSP cannot be included in the alliance by force."

ASSAM

Witch-hunt: Tribal woman burnt alive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

A woman in Assam was allegedly brunt alive by a group of persons that suspected her to be a witch. The victim, an Adivasi woman identified as Sangita Kapi, was a mother of three children.

The incident occurred at a village in northern Assam's Sonitpur district on Sunday evening. The police arrested six persons, all of them residents of the same village, in connection with the incident.

Ram Kapi, husband of the deceased said the assailants swooped down on his house while his wife was cooking. "They branded her as a witch and beat her up. I requested them to not beat her and come in the morning. I was also beaten up," Kapi said.

"As my three children were crying on seeing us being beaten up, I went out taking them along to drop them at the house of my brother who lives nearby. When I returned, I saw my house on fire," Kapi further alleged. A team of police said they were probing the case.

Pak gets extra water after Old Hussainiwala barrage damaged at Punjab border

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

IN the last couple of days, around 2,500 cusecs of water from the Sutlej has flowed into Pakistan from 101 Old Hussainiwala barrage, built by the colonial British in 1922, as the crest beneath the gates is severely damaged, the first such incident in years.

Sources said the barrage in Ferozepur district has hardly been in use since the mid-1950s. The water flow is stopped at Harike headworks; only a trickle flows towards the barrage, the last "barrier" that controls water flowing into the neighboring country and further up to Sulemanki Headworks located near the Fazilka border.

There are some 29 gates along the way. The crest of gate number 26 has been totally damaged, while others have developed cracks.

"The crest beneath the gates of this barrage is damaged as it is hardly in use. The recent floods a couple of months back could also have contributed to the rusting. Some water has gone into Pakistan. We are trying to lower the water level so that we can check the damage," said a senior official of the state irrigation department.

He said the pond of the barrage has been silted and is full of water hyacinth. It offers only marginal storage. The gates of the barrage open during floods to release excess water from Harike Headworks to prevent flooding. During normal conditions, these gates are closed so that water does not flow towards Pakistan.

There are two canals, the Eastern Canal and the Gang Canal. The Eastern Canal feeds Luther Head which supplies water for irrigational purposes in Ferozepur, Guruharsahai and Mamdot areas. The Gang Canal takes care of the flow of the river water when the pond has excess water.

'Hardly used'

Sources said the barrage in Ferozepur district has hardly been in use since the mid-1950s. The water flow is stopped at Harike headworks; only a trickle flows towards the barrage, the last "barrier" is located near the Fazilka border

'Mission Bengal': Shah, Nadda in Didi land to firm up strategy for '24 polls

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

UNION Home minister Amit Shah and BJP's national president J P Nadda are scheduled to be in Kolkata in their two-day Bengal visit starting from Monday to take stock of the party's preparations and assess the organisational landscape in the state ahead of the next year's Lok Sabha elections. The two heavyweights of the saffron camp are scheduled to land in Kolkata late on Monday night and hold a series of indoor meetings.

The visit by Shah and Nadda is said to be significant in the backdrop of the BJP's stellar performance in Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Rajasthan and the two leaders will hold several meetings with the party's Bengal functionaries and others perceived to be close to the organisation. Shah and Nadda, however, will not attend any public events or rally.

Sources in the BJP said poll strategy and selection of candidates would get top priority in the meetings with Shah and Nadda. "Some of the sitting MLAs could be engaged in the Lok Sabha poll fray. It will not be surprising if a few sitting MPs are axed from the candidate list of 2024 LS polls," said a senior BJP leader in Kolkata.

The leader also pointed out that fresh faces could be fielded in the upcoming general elections as the two top-level leaders would meet saffron camp's sympathisers as well.

The first meeting will be held on Tuesday afternoon at the National Library, where some people perceived to be close to the saffron camp, apart from BJP's state functionaries, have also been invited. Before flying to Delhi, the two heavyweights also meet the leaders of the party's state chapter in a separate meeting.

BJP's state functionaries are hopeful that the visit by Shah and Nadda will definitely boost up the party's foot soldiers.

"A section of our party's grassroot level functionaries became inactive because of the violence unleashed by the ruling TMC after the panchayat elections. They have become active again. In his previous Kolkata visit, Shah had set a target of 35 seats out 42 in the Lok Sabha polls. In the 2019 general elections, the target was 22 and we won 18 seats. This time, we will win over 30 seats in Bengal," said BJP's former state president Dilip Ghosh.

Home minister Amit Shah and BJP's national president J P Nadda | PTI FILE

Gujarat spent nil out of measly ₹10L in 3 yrs

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

THE government has been promoting organic farming in the country since 2015-16 through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Both stress end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing, and post-harvest management.

However, according to the Ministry of Agriculture of India's response in the Lok Sabha, a measly Rs 10.10 lakh has been provided under this initiative in Gujarat during the last three years, and this cash has also remained idle for three years, indicating that the government has spent nothing to promote organic farming.

On December 19, 2023, in the Lok Sabha, in response to a question raised by MPs Rajesh Chudasma and Nama Nageshwar Rao, the Ministry of Agriculture stated that in the last three years, ₹10.10 lakh has been allocated under PKVY in Gujarat, while 0.00 rupees have been used, i.e. that the central government allocated only ₹10 lakh for organic farming and that too was not used.

On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh utilized Rs 10,004.83 lakh out of a total of 10004.83 lakh PKVY Funds, Bihar received 2541.31 lakh, of which 792.98 lakh were used, and Chhattisgarh received 3,738.11 lakh, of which 2,393.78 lakh were used. Besides, the money granted to other states has been substantially utilized, demonstrating that the Gujarat government is unconcerned about organic farming in Gujarat.

The Agriculture Ministry's June answer to the Lok Sabha states that between 2016 and 2022 organic agricultural land in Gujarat has not increased by an inch. In addition, while 10,27,865 beneficiary farmers nationwide are engaged in organic agriculture under the PKVY program, not a single farmer from Gujarat is among them.

Sompura, engraver of first stone of Ram temple, to attend Jan 22 event

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE engraver of the first stone to be used in the construction of upcoming Ram temple, **Annubhai Sompura**, will be one of the chief guests of Ram Lalla during his consecration in garbh-griha (sanctum sanctorum) in Ayodhya on January 22.

Given his unique contribution to the temple movement, Sompoura has been invited by Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust to be a witness to the event in presence of PM Narendra Modi and other dignitaries in the temple town.

On the recommendation of the chef architect and famous sculptor Chandrakant Sompura, Annubhai, then 45, had come to Ayodhya from Ahmedabad in 1990. He had brought his brother Pradeep Sompura and son Prakash along. Since then Annubhai has embraced the temple town as his permanent abode and settled in Ayodhya where he, along with his brother and son, started carving the stones and pillars to be used in temple whenever it would come up. Thus, the credit for carving the first ever stone for the purpose of being used in temple construction goes to Annubhai.

"After coming to Ayodhya, the then international president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and one of the most prominent faces of temple movement, Ashok Singhal got the arrangements done for Annubhai. At present, he has been staying in an accommodation provided to him by temple trust chief Mahant Nritya Gopal Das at Maniram Chhavni Ashram," says a local source.

Annubhai had started carving with just two stones. He had no machinery but started giving shape to the raw stones with the help of hammer and chisel at a desolated place which was then surrounded by dense forest area but now has catapulted into a full-fledged workshop for the temple.

As per the local sources, the first machine to cut the stones arrived in Ayodhya in 1996. It was followed by the deployment of a large number of heavy machines to cut stones and hundreds of artists were hired to carve these stones further.

"Initially, Annubhai, his son and brother were the only artistes chiselling the stones but gradually the number went up. At present around 150 workers from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Mirzapur and Ayodhya are working day in and day out to engrave the stones to be used in temple," said a local source.

Elated over the consecration of the Lord Rama in sanctum sanctorum, Annubhai, now 78, feels that it would be biggest festival of his life when Ram will be enthroned in his abode.

NEW TWIST

HR head of Newsclick wants to turn approver

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

THE human resource head of news portal NewsClick, Amit Chakraborty, has filed an application before a Delhi court requesting to make him a government witness in the terror case filed under UAPA for allegedly receiving money to spread pro-China propaganda, official sources said.

The judge posted the matter before a magisterial court for recording Amit Chakraborty's statement, official sources said on Monday. According to police sources, the special cell of the Delhi Police will decide whether to support his application before the court after going through his statement.

Chakraborty, who is currently lodged in Tihar Jail, had moved the application before a session's Court on Saturday. "Now his statement will most likely be recorded under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before a Magistrate," sources said.

The Delhi Police had arrested NewsClick founder and Editor Prabir Purkayastha and Chakraborty in October for allegedly being involved in continuous unlawful activities, which included undermining India's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It cited suporting farmers' protests through illegal funding and involvement in a "larger conspiracy" of illegally infusing foreign funds in India through Chinese telecom companies.

The first information report said large amounts of funds were routed from China to attack various policies and projects in India.

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR ALLOTMENT OF REGIMENTAL SHOPS (WHITE BELT WET CANTEEN & TAILOR SHOP) AT CMP CENTRE AND SCHOOL, BANGALORE

1.Commandant. CMP Centre and School. Hosur Road, Bangalore - 560025 invites applications for allotment of Regimental Shops (White Belt Wet Canteen & Tailor Shop) on rental and rebate basis at this establishment as per following PRIORITY

(a) War Widows / Widows of defence personnel kited while on duty

(b) Disabled Soldier (c) Ex-servicemen

(d) Spouses / Widows of Ex-servicemen

2. Details of Shops available for rent purpose is given out in Application form which may obtained by paying application fee of Rs 100/-(Non-refundable) on any working day.

(a) Issue of Application form 01 Jan 2024 to 07 Jan 2024 (Form 0900h to 1400h)

(b) Date of receipt of filled application form 21st Jan 2024 (upto 1100h) at Control Room of CMP Centre and School.

(c) DD for Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) in favour of Regimental Furl Acct. CMP Centre and School (Account No 0435101014834, IFSC CNRB0000435) payable at Canara Bank, Neelasandra, Bangalore.

(d) Documents to be attached with the application are explained in the application itself

3. Applications are available at PRI Branch of CMP Centre and School.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the General Public that my client **Mr.Naganjaneyulu Nalluri,** S/o. Lakshminarayana Nalluri, Aged about 41 years, Residing at Falt No.203, Lotus Apartment, Sai Serinity Layout, Lake Mont School Road, Segehalli, Vigonagar Post, K R Puram, Bangalore -560036, he is intending to purchase all that property as more particularly described in the schedule hereunder and Situated at Yerrappanahalli Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, which is intend to purchase by my above client.

Therefore any other Person/s having any claim in respect of the referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, transfer of title or beneficial interest, under any trust right of possession, or per-emptionor under any agreement or other disposition decree, or Awarder otherwise claiming howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned **within 14 days (both days inclusive)** of the Publication hereof failing which the claim of such persons/s will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Site bearing No.42, formed in Survey No.21, Old No.21/P48, Land developed by Prime Developers Rep by its Proprietor, Measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1500 square feet, with all right of easements appurtenances either latent patent attached to the schedule property and bounded as follows: **east by:** Road, **west by:** Site No.49, **north by:** Site No.41, **south by:** Site No.43.

K V Naveen Kumar, Advocate
Manvith Law Associates,
Advocates & Consultants, Hanuman Building,
Bhatrahalli Signal, Old Madras Road,
K R Puram-560049. Mob.No.9916532142.

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FORM NO.14 [See Regulation 33 (2)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I-BENGALURU

BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

RC No. 13392

Canara Bank, Specialised SME Branch, No.473D (7), 13th Cross, 4th Phase, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 058. ...Certificate Holder

-- Versus --

M/s. Precicast & Others ...Certified Debtor(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

To

M/s. Precicast, No.54, 4th Main, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 058, Rep by its Partners: Defendants No.2 and 3

Smt. Poornima, W/o. Sri. K.S.Puttaraja, Res at: No.64, Munikondappa Layout, 1st Cross, Nagasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560 079.

Sri. K.S.Puttaraja, S/o. Sri. Sannaiah, Res at: No.64, Munikondappa Layout, 1st Cross, Nagasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560 079.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA1004/2014** passed by the Presiding Officer Debts Recovery Tribunal-1, Bangalore an amount of **Rs.35,65,269.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh(s) Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Nine Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from the date of O.A. till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:

a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **30th day of July 2018.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-I
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BENGALURU

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited)., under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrower(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	30258310000210	1) Mrs. Sabira Khan A, 2) Mr. Asif Ali Khan I, Also at: M/s. Sri Lakshmi Enterprises, 3) Mr. Syed Ahmed	11-10-2023 Rs.6,69,588/- (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight Only) due as on 10-10-2023	Date: 22-12-2023 Time: 10:20 AM Symbolic Possession

<u>Description of the Property:</u> <u>Schedule-A (Description of Immoveable Property):</u> All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 Acres and 18 Guntas including the Kharab Land in Survey Nos. 39/1, 39/2, 40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore and **Bounded on the: East by:** Lands in Survey No.43, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South by:** Lands in Survey No.41.
<u>Schedule-B (Property to be Conveyed):</u> The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property mentioned above works out to 195 Square Feet.
<u>Schedule-C (Apartment):</u> Residential Apartment bearing No.B-001, Khatha No. 467, Assessment No.T-6-GF-B-001, Ground Floor of Tower No.6, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bath Room and a balcony in the Residential Apartment Complex Known as "JANAADHAR SHUBHA" constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, having a super built up area of 400 Sq.ft with vitrified flooring and the proportionate share in the common areas such as passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water drainage and/or electrical conduct/s and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s and is **Bounded on: East by:** Open Space, **West by:** A-002, **North by:** Open Space, **South by:** Tower No.5. The Super Built Area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each Apartment Unit and the proportionate areas covered by common wall/s, passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water drainage and/or electrical conduct/s, parks, and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s.
<u>Schedule-D (List of Facilities):</u> Storm water storage, Recharge pits, Rain water collection tank, STP- treated & reused, Overhead tank, Bore well water treated & used, UG sump & Pumps, Solar street lighting & Dual flush system for WC's.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
2	30258310000621	1) Mr. Shiva P, Also at: M/s. BSA Courier (Main Office) Harika Enterprises, 2) Mrs. M Nagarathnamma & 3) Mr. Santhosh Kumar Singh	11-10-2023 Rs.11,16,627/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Seven Only) due as on 10-10-2023	Date: 22-12-2023 Time: 10:55 AM Symbolic Possession

<u>Description of the Property:</u> <u>Schedule-A (Description of Immoveable Property):</u> All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 Acres and 18 Guntas including the Kharab Land in Survey Nos. 39/1, 39/2, 40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore and **Bounded on the: East by:** Lands in Survey No.43, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South by:** Lands in Survey No.41.
<u>Schedule-B (Property to be Conveyed):</u> The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property mentioned above works out to 195 Square Feet.
<u>Schedule-C (Apartment):</u> Residential Apartment bearing No.A-309, Khatha No. 343, Assessment No.T-1-A-309, Third Floor of Tower-1, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bath Room and a balcony, along with covered car parking space bearing No.22 in Tower No.1, in the Residential Apartment Complex Known as "JANAADHAR SHUBHA" constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, having a super built up area of 400 Sq.ft with vitrified flooring and the proportionate share in the common areas such as passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water drainage and/or electrical conduct/s and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s and is **Bounded on: East by:** B-312, **West by:** Open Space & Staircase, **North by:** Lobby & B-312, **South by:** Open Space. The Super Built Area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each Apartment Unit and the proportionate areas covered by common wall/s, passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water drainage and/or electrical conduct/s, parks, and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s.
<u>Schedule-D (List of Facilities):</u> Storm water storage, Recharge pits, Rain water collection tank, STP- treated & reused, Overhead tank, Bore well water treated & used, UG sump & Pumps, Solar street lighting & Dual flush system for WC's.

Whereas, the Borrower's/ Co-borrowers'/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken symbolic possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural | **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 26.12.2023 | **For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

<u>Registered Office:</u> The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

ओएनजीसी ONGC
ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

EASTERN OFFSHORE ASSET/HPHT ASSET, KAKINADA (A.P.)

<u>EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)</u>

EOA-HPHT Asset, Kakinada invites EOI from reputed & experienced agencies for **carrying out remedial measures for soil settlement by grouting at Onshore Gas Terminal, HPHT Asset, P Mallavaram, Andhra Pradesh**. Prospective vendors having required capabilities are requested to submit their profile along with relevant experience via e-mail to **asokan_J@ongc.co.in** and **yasaswi_akkiraju@ongc.co.in** on or before **09.01.2024**. For further details and EOI document please visit: **http://tenders.ongc.co.in**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU

BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

RC NO: 21 / 2019

Canara Bank, Harohalli Branch, Ramanagaram District ...Certificate Holder Bank

-- Versus --

Sri. T.M. Thimme Gowda & Anothers ...Certified Debtor/Defendants

DEMAND NOTICE

1. Sri. T.M.Thimme Gowda, S/o Late Thammaiah @ Chikkamuthaiah, No.690/0, 14th Cross, 2nd Phase, Opp VET College, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore.

2. Sri.Shashidhar, S/o Kunnegowda, Syndhyapura, Medamaranahalli Post, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagaram District. **...Certified Debtor/Defendants**

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **T.A: 2283 / 2017** passed by the Ho'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore on **dtd. 7/4/2018** an amount of **Rs.19,17,881.25 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh(s) Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty One and Paise Twenty Five Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay All charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **23rd day of Aug-2019.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- 2, BANGALORE.

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment". 3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

FORM NO.14 [See Regulation 33 (2)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I-BENGALURU

BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

RC NO: 10635

Canara Bank, (e-Syndicate Bank) Opposite Post Office, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560 097 **...Certificate Holder**

-- Versus --

Dr. G. VENKATESH PRASAD AND OTHER

DEMAND NOTICE

To

1 Dr. G. VENKATESH PRASAD, S/o Late Sri Gangaiah, No. 104, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Mahalaxmi Further Extension, Bangalore - 560 086.

2. Dr.K. NAGABHUSHANAM, S/o Sri K. Thippeswamy, Associate Professor, U. A. S, Bangalore - 560 024

R/a: C-39, U A S Staff Quarters, Opposite Veterinary College, Hebbal - 560 024 **....Defendants/Certified Debtors**

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA No13/2014** passed by the Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore and Amount of **Rs.10,87,175/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from the date of O.A till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:

a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal **on 28th Day of may, 2018.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
SPACE APPLICATIOS CENTRE
AHMEDABAD - 380015

सत्यमेव जयते

SAC इसरो isro

Advertisement No.: SAC : 04:2023: dated : 26-12-2023

Space Applications Centre (SAC) invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of **<u>Scientist/Engineer 'SC'</u>** in SAC and NRSC in the fields of Agriculture, Atmospheric Science & Oceanography and Computer Science Engineering.

Interested candidates may visit our website **<u>http://www.sac.gov.in</u>** OR **<u>https://careers.sac.gov.in</u>** for detailed advertisement and registering the applications online. Applications will be received ONLINE only. The site will remain open from **<u>1000 hrs. on 26.12.2023 to 1730 hrs. on 15.01.2024</u>** for **online registration, filling up of online application and payment of application fees.**

Any addendum/Update/Corrigendum will only be published on SAC website. Candidates should regularly visit the SAC website **<u>www.sac.gov.in</u>** for latest updates.

CBC 49107/12/0010/2324

JM FINANCIAL

JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

Corporate identify Number : U67190MH2007PLC74287
Registered Office Address : 7th Floor, Cnergy,
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025
T: +91 22 6630 3030 F: +911 22 6630 3223 www. Jmfinancialarc.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Piramal Capital and Housing Finacne Ltd (formerly known as Dewan Housing and finance corporation Ltd) have assigned a pool of Loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created therefor along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") vide an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JMFARC (JM) (herein reffered as Assingee). The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of (JM) assignee. Under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower (s) (the "said Borrower (s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice (s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Nnotice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower (s) to pay to JM, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice (s), from the date (s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower (s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to JM by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower (s)/ Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 13300000306 of Cannaught Place Branch) Aparna Bora (Borrower) Dinesh S Bora (Co Borrower 1)	01-11-2023 /₹ 2778043/- (₹ Twenty Seven lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Forty Three Only) NPA (03-09-2019)	Unit No. F-702,7th Floor Tower/ Block- F, La Galaxia Plot No. H R A -11, G.noida Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh :- 201308
(LC No. 15400000708 of Kolar Branch) Thenmathi K (Borrower) Raviendran D (Co Borrower 1)	01-11-2023 /₹ 882329/- (₹ Eight lakh Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine Only) NPA (10-04-2023)	Site No 18 Katha 1843 oorgaum Village Robertsonpet Kgf Kolar Kolar Karnataka :- 563122
(LC No. 21600041507 of Mysore - Saraswathipuram Branch) Aejaz Shariff (Borrower) Najma Taj (Co Borrower 1)	01-11-2023 /₹ 2995219/- (₹ Twenty Nine lakh Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred Nineteen Only) NPA (09-09-2023)	Site No 2145, Rajiv Nagara 2nd Stage, Near Narayana Hurdayalaya & Ring road Devanuru extension Mysore Maysuru Karnataka :- 570019
(LC No. 21400042763 of Bengaluru - Jayanagar -1 Branch) Shankar M (Borrower) Ranjani J (Co Borrower 1)	01-11-2023 /₹ 3671256.42/- (₹ Thirty Six lakh Seventy One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Six Only and Forty Two Paise) NPA (09-07-2023)	Flat No Pb Wj 1301, Purva Palm Beach, Sy No 19, Kyalasanahalli, K V Puram, Bangalore Bengaluru Karnataka :- 560073
(LC No. 12700003407 of Bengaluru S V Koramangala Branch) Vinod Premchand Bid (Borrower) Rimple Vinod Bid (Co Borrower 1) Kushi Agarbatti (Co Borrower 2)	01-11-2023 /₹ 791421/- (₹ Seven lakh Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Only) NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No 001 & 001 A bindu Annmol Ground & Mezzanine Floor, (Duplex Flat) Amarjyothinagar, nagarabhavi Main Road Bengaluru Bengaluru Karnataka :- 560040
(LC No. 00200006133 of Bengaluru - Magestic Branch) Bharatesh (Borrower) Charan Rao (Co Borrower 1)	01-11-2023 /₹ 2293585/- (₹ Twenty Two lakh Ninety Three Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Five Only) NPA (09-09-2023)	Flat No.333, 3rd Floor, Rose Wing, Parth Gardenia Apartment, Kodigehalli Village, Bangalore Banglore Bengaluru Karnataka :- 560097

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to JM as aforesaid, JM shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13 (4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of JM. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 26.12.2023
Place : Karnataka

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

<u>FORM NO. 14:</u> [See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU

BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560001

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC 419/2021 20/10/2021

CANARA BANK, SME Bommasandra Branch, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 099. ...CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Versus

M/S. LUCKY GRANITES AND OTHERS

To

M/s. Lucky Granites, A Partnership Firm, rep. by its Partner **Sri Ashok Kaushik And Smt. Shankuntala Kaushik,** No.230, Sy.No.37, 3rd Phase, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 099.

2) Sri. Ashok Kaushik, S/o. Sri. Ram Autor Koushik, Partner of M/s. Lucky Granites, Residing at: G-2. Sobha Apartments, Geddalahalli, Sanjay Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 094

3) Smt. Shakuntala Kaushik, W/o. Sri. Ashok Kaushik, Partner of M/s. Lucky Granites, Residing at: G-2. Sobha Apartments, Geddalahalli, Sanjay Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 094. ....CERTIFICATE DEBTORS

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA/200/2020** an amount of **Rs. 90,99,938.00 (Rupees Ninety Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Eight Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest and costs till realization. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the on this **date: 20/10/2021**

Sd/- Recovery Officer-1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1)

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

FORM NO. 17 [See Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income- Tax Act, 1961]

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1)

4th FLOOR, BSNL BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE,RAJ BHAVAN ROAD BENGALURU-560001

<u>NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION</u>

UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993,

RC 202/2019 IN OA 225/2018

Canara Bank, ARM II Branch
-- Versus --
M/s. Simla Medicals and Others

To,

<u>Certificate Debtor</u>

1. M/s Simla Medicals, Shop No. 6, No 181, Nehru Road, Muniswamappa Layout, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru-560084

2. Smt B Muthu Lakshmi, W/o Sri S Boobesh

3. Sri S Boobesh, S/o Sri P Subramani

Both are residing at No 379, ITC, 1st A, Cross, Ramaswamypalya, M S Nagar Post, Benglauru-560023

Whereas you were ordered by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1) who had issued Recovery Certificate No. **202/2019** in **OA No. 225/2018** to pay to the Certificate Holder Bank the sum of **Rs 13,50,498.50/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight and Paise Fifty Only)** along with cost, expenses and future interest @ 17.50 % p.a. compounded monthly rests from date of filing of OA i.e. **22/02/2018** till its realization in full. jointly, severally and personally from the Certificate Debtors and whereas the said has amonar hot been paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned immovable property.

You are hereby informed that the day on or after fifteenth day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and setting the terms thereof, you are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

<u>SPECIFICATION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY</u>

<u>SCHEDULE A PROPERTY</u>

(Belonging Defendant No. 3)

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, No. 17. Old No. 1562, formed out of Sy No. 7. situated at Byataguttapalya (Formerly known as Ramaswamy Palya) Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore, North Taluk presently coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Lingarajapura, Bangalore measuring East to West 15 Feet and North to South 40 feet totally totally measuring, 600 sq feet and bounded on: **East by:** Remaining portion of the same property; **West by:** House No. 4; **North by:** Property bearing No. 22; **South by:** Road,

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **22/11/2023.**

Sd/- (P.H. HEMANTH KUMAR, IRS)
RECOVERY OFFICER

QuoteExpress
PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES
ROBERT H SCHULLER

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/EPR-26 & 27 (2023-24)/7758-59 & 7762-63 Date : 20.12.2023

KPTCL invites bids for the following

1) Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/EPR-26 Dated: 19.12.2023 for "Procurement of Desktop Computers and Printers for usage at various Sub-stations and Division offices coming under BMAZ (South) Circle, KPTCL, Bangalore".

2) Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/EPR-27 Dated: 19.12.2023 for "Procurement of T&P materials for usage at various sub-stations and Division offices coming under BMAZ (South) Circle, KPTCL, Bangalore".

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-7899-900/23-24/ Date : 22.12.2023

3) Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/ EE(O)/AEE-1/ 23-24/EPR-28 Dated 22.12.2023 for supply of 66kV, 240Sqmm straight through jointing kits for rectification of EHV Cable faults in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'e Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for Sl. No.1 & 2 on or after **26.12.2023** & for Sl. No.3 on or after **27.12.2023**. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 9, PH-Fax : 22386686-85

FORM NO. 16: I.T.C.P. (See rule 48 of the Second Schedule To the Income Tax Act. 1961)

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 1)

4th FLOOR, BSNL BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE,RAJ BHAVAN ROAD BENGALURU-560001

<u>WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY</u>

(See Sections 25 and Sec. 29 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Other Financial institutions Act. 1993 read with II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961)

RC 202/2019 IN OA 225/2018

Canara Bank, ARM II Branch
-- Versus --
M/s. Simla Medicals and Others

To,

<u>Certificate Debtor</u>

1. M/s Simla Medicals, Shop No. 6, No 181, Nehru Road, Muniswamappa Layout, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru-560084

2. Smt B Muthu Lakshmi, W/o Sri S Boobesh

3. Sri S Boobesh, S/o Sri P Subramani

Both are residing at No 379, ITC, 1st A, Cross, Ramaswamypalya, M S Nagar Post, Benglauru-560023

To,

Smt Sree Priya T, Senior Manager, Canara Bank, ARM II Branch, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Spencer Tower, Bangalore- 560001.

Whereas the above named Certificate Debtors were ordered by the Recovery Certificate **No 202/2019 in OA No. 225/2018** to pay to the Certificate Holder Bank the sum of **Rs.13,50,498.00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight and Paise Fifty Only)** along with cost, expenses and future interest @ 17.50% p.a. compounded monthly rests from date of filing of OA i.e. **22/02/2018** till its realization in full, jointly, severally and personally from the Certificate Debtors whereas the certificate debtors Failed to pay the said amount.

This is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed and unless they shall pay to you the above said sun and the costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.

You are further commanded to return the Warrant on or before **22/12/23** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed or why it has not Been executed.

<u>SPECIFICATION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY</u>

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

(Belonging Defendant No. 3)

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, No. 17. Old No. 1562, formed out of Sy No. 7. situated at Byataguttapalya (Formerly known as Ramaswamy Palya) Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore, North Taluk presently coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Lingarajapura, Bangalore measuring East to West 15 Feet and North to South 40 feet totally totally measuring, 600 sq feet and bounded on: **East by:** Remaining portion of the same property; **West by:** House No. 4; **North by:** Property bearing No. 22; **South by:** Road,

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **22/11/2023.**

Sd/- (P.H. HEMANTH KUMAR, IRS)
RECOVERY OFFICER

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RETAIL ASSETS CENTRALPROCESSING CENTRE RACPC– III, Banaswadi
No. 253, Dolphin Mansion, Near Bus Depot, 1st Main Road, HBR Layout, 2nd Block,
Stage-1, Hennur Gardens, Bangalore -560 043
E-mail: sbi.15628@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule 8(1) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (For Immovable Property)

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India,** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest/cost etc within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower hereunder.

1. Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor : **1. Mr. Shiva Kumar C S/o Chinnapa V.,** No.15/1, 11th Main, Vasanth Nagar Bangalore -560 052. **Also at:** Ashoka Enclave, Flat No 210, 2nd Floor, Site No 12, Netaji Road, Frazer Town Bidrahalli, Ulsoor Village, Bangalore.
Demand Notice date : 09.10.2023
A/C No. 67108671652/SVR/70557/HL/1061
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice: Rs. 22,93,929/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Nine Only)as on 06.10.2023 and you are also liable to pay interest from **07.10.2023** with future interest & expenses thereon.
Possession Taken date : 21.12.2023
Loan Outstanding amount : Rs.23,37,428/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Eight Only) as on 19.12.2023 and you are also liable to pay interest from 20.12.2023 and further interest and expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property:<u>SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :</u> All That piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Corporatin No12**, measuring **21,422.86 Square Feet** situated at Nethaji Road, Bangalore ward No 91, and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereon, in the Project called '**Ashoka Enclave**' and bounded on: **East by:**Corporation Hospital, **West by:**Netaji Road, **North by:** Channel **South by:** Road Cross
<u>SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY :</u> All the piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing **No. 210,** Assigned Sub Khatha No **12/28 (HV), PID No 97-94-12/28** (HV) in the 2nd Floor in the complex known as **"Ashoka Enclave"** Constructed in the property bearing corporation no 12, situated at Nethaji Road, Bengaluru, Ward No 91, Measuring 1153 Square feet of super built up area and one cover car parking slot in the basement.
Sale Deed No. HLS-1-00125-2010-11, Dated: 26.04.2010

2. Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor :1. Ms.Shakira Shaikh D/o Shasikh Shamm Babu, No. 98, 14th Cross, Fathima Layout, Govindpura, Nr. Arabic College, Bengaluru- 560 045. **Also at:** C/o Kolte Patil Developers, Mirabilis –C Block -113, Sy No. 71, Horamavu Aghara Road, K R Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru **Also at:** Jp Morgan Blue Bay Building, 100 Feet Road, Embassy Golf, Link Business Park, Domlur, Bengaluru
Demand Notice date : 03.10.2023
A/C No. 39996755824/SVR/13175/HL/1449
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice :Rs. 22,66,346/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Six Only) as on 30.09.2023 and you are also liable to pay interest from 01.10.2023 with future interest & expenses thereon
Possession Taken date : 21.12.2023
Loan Outstanding amount : **Rs. 22,81,624/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Four Only) as on 19.12.2023** and you are also liable to pay interest from **20.12.2023** and further interest and expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property: <u>SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :</u> All That piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy. No.71, measuring 7 Acre 39 Guntas, situated at Horamavu Agara Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Within the revenue jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore in the Project called as **'Kolte Patil Mirabilils'** and bounded on: **East by:** Horamavu Village Boundary, **West by:** Property of Dasari Muniyappa , K Lakshmana and Sons, **North by:** Propeties of Kengeri Narayanappa, Hanumappa, K Ramesh and others, **South by:** Road
<u>SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY:</u> All the piece and parcel of Residential Flat bearing **No. C-113 on the 1st Floor in C Block** with one covered car parking in Residential Complex **"MIRABILIS"**constructed on schedule A property having super built up area of **526 (carpet area 35.75 Sqmts- 385 sft)** inscluive of balconies, utility space, floors ceiling and walls between the apartments and proportionate common area.
Sale Deed No. SHV-1-05940-2020-21, Dated: 19.02.2021

The above mentioned borrowers/guarantor/ mortgagers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantor/ mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on above mentioned date.

The borrowers//guarantor/ mortgagers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India, RACPC, Banaswadi, Bangalore** for amount mentioned against their names with further interest accrued and cost/ expenses thereon.

The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date :21.12 .2023 | **Sd/-** Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Place: Bangalore | State Bank of India, RACPC III, Banaswadi

149

The toll from the 6.2-magnitude earthquake that jolted northwest China has risen to 149

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	16	SNY	Los Angeles	26	17	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	25	12	HR
Dhaka	32	27	SNY	Moscow	21	8	HR
Dubai	39	31	SNY	New York	26	16	LC
Houston	31	23	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	17	SNY	Toronto	19	11	LC
London	24	13	LC	Washington	27	14	SNY

Netanyahu says Israel set to intensify attacks on Gaza

Christmas Day air strike on refugee camp kills at least 70, says Hamas

Al-Maghazi refugee camp on Monday after an overnight Israeli strike | AFP

JERUSALEM/GAZA STRIP

FAMILIES of hostages taken by Hamas booed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday as he addressed parliament, vowing to bring the captives home but saying "more time" was needed.

"Now! Now!" the families chanted from the gallery when Netanyahu said Israeli forces first needed to increase military pressure on Gaza's Hamas rulers. "We wouldn't be able to secure the release of hostages without military pressure," he said. "We're not stopping, we're continuing to fight and we're intensifying the fighting in the coming days. It's going to be a long war that's not close to ending."

Netanyahu said he spoke to Israeli field commanders who said they needed "more time" to finish the mission. "We won't stop until victory," Netanyahu said over the cries of protesters.

Israel says 129 hostages, abducted on October 7 when Hamas gunmen attacked southern Israel, are still held in the Palestinian territory. "We, my colleagues and I, aren't sparing any effort," Netanyahu added, to return "all of our hostages home".

Netanyahu's address came after his Likud party reported that he visited the Gaza Strip on Monday and vowed to step up the army's assault in the Palestinian territory. "I just came back from Gaza," he said, according to a statement from Netanyahu's Likud party.

Israel pounded Gaza on Monday, exacerbating the dire conditions for civilians with no end in sight to the war Hamas says has killed more than 20,000 people in the Palestinian territory. The Hamas-controlled Gaza health ministry said an Israeli air strike killed at least 70 people on Christmas Eve at the Al-Maghazi refugee camp.

The army said it was "reviewing the incident", adding it was "committed to international law including taking feasible steps to minimise harm to civilians".

At least 10 members of one family were killed in an Israeli strike on their house in the Jabalia camp in northern Gaza, the health ministry said. In a separate attack, the ministry said 18 people were killed in an overnight strike on southern city of Khan Yunis.

There was no respite Christmas Day, with the army saying it continued its ground, air and sea operations and struck several Hamas targets, including commanders. The head of the UN refugee agency, Filippo Grandi, called for an end to the suffering. *Agencies*

Egypt proposes govt of experts to govern Gaza in peace plan

CAIRO

EGYPT has put forward an ambitious, initial proposal to end the Israel-Hamas war with a cease-fire, a phased hostage release and the creation of a Palestinian government of experts who would administer the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank, a senior Egyptian official and a European diplomat said.

The proposal, worked out with the Gulf nation of Qatar, has been presented to Israel, Hamas, the United States and European governments but still appeared preliminary. It falls short of Israel's professed goal of outright crushing Hamas and would appear not to meet Israel's insistence on keeping military control over Gaza for an extended period after the war.

Israel's War Cabinet, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, will meet later Monday discuss the hostage situation, among other topics, an Israeli official said, but would not say if they would discuss the Egyptian proposal. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to talk to the media. Word of the proposal comes as Israeli airstrikes heavily pounded central and southern Gaza, crushing buildings on families sheltering inside. In the Maghazi refugee camp, rescue workers pulled dozens more bodies from the wreckage hours after a strike levelled a three-story building and shattered others nearby.

At least 106 people were killed, according to hospital records seen by The Associated Press, making it one of the deadliest strikes of Israel's air campaign. The war has devastated large parts of Gaza, killed more than 20,400 Palestinians and displaced almost all of the territory's 2.3 million people.

POPE BLASTS ARMS MAKERS IN CHRISTMAS PEACE APPEAL

VATICAN

POPE Francis on Monday blasted the weapons industry and its "instruments of death" that fuel wars as he made a Christmas Day appeal for peace in the world and in particular between Israel and the Palestinians.

Speaking from the loggia of St Peter's Basilica to the throngs of people below, Francis said he grieved the "abominable attack" of Hamas against southern Israel on October 7 and called for the release of hostages.

And he begged for an end to Israel's military campaign in Gaza and the "appalling harvest of innocent civilians" as he called for humanitarian aid to reach those in need.

Francis devoted his Christmas Day blessing to a call for peace in the world, noting that the biblical story of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem sent a message of peace. But he said that Bethlehem "is a place of sorrow and silence" this year.

Francis' annual speech typically offers a lament of all the misery facing the world, and this year's edition was no different. From Armenia and Azerbaijan to Syria and Yemen, Ukraine to South Sudan and Congo and the Korean peninsula, Francis appealed for humanitarian initiatives, dialogue and security to prevail over violence and death.

He called for governments and people of goodwill in the Americas in particular to address the "troubling phenomenon" of migration and its "unscrupulous traffickers" who take advantage of innocents just looking for a better life. He took particular aim at the weapons industry, which he said was fuelling the conflicts around the globe with scarcely anyone paying attention.

"It should be talked about and written about, so as to bring to light the interests and the profits that move the puppet strings of war," he said. "And how can we even speak of peace, when arms production, sales and trade are on the rise?" Francis has frequently blasted the weapons industry as "merchants of death" and has said that wars today, in Ukraine, in particular, are being used to try out new weapons or use up old stockpiles.

Christians around the world attended late-night and pre-dawn special mass on Monday to celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth | AFP/AP

ASIA MATTERS

THAILAND

MOVE FORWARD PARTY HOPEFUL OF COURT WIN

Thailand's progressive Move Forward Party, which won this year's election but was shut out of government, said Monday it was confident about a court case probing campaign pledges to reform royal insult laws. MFP won most seats in the May poll, but then-leader Pita Limjaroenrat was blocked from becoming prime minister by conservative forces in the upper house of parliament. The party's vow to reform Thailand's tough lese-majeste laws spooked the largely royalist, pro-military senate, whose members were appointed by the last junta

SINGAPORE

HOUSING SALES DOWN IN 2023

Sales of new private homes remained strong in prime districts in 2023, *The Straits Times* reported quoting data from the Urban Redevelopment Authority. However, the overall demand has slowed during 2023, which saw only 4,264 units sold. Analysts said the slowdown was due to factors like high interest rates

INDONESIA

13 KILLED IN EXPLOSION AT NICKEL PLANT

At least 13 people were killed and 46 injured in eastern Indonesia on Sunday in an explosion at a Chinese-funded nickel-processing plant, the owner of the industrial park that hosts the facility said. The island of Sulawesi is a hub for the mineral-rich country's production of nickel, a base metal used for electric vehicle batteries and stainless steel, and Beijing's growing investment has stoked unrest over working conditions. The accident occurred around 5.30 am at a plant owned by P T Indonesia Tsingshan Stainless Steel in the Morowali Industrial Park

Alexy Navalny

Putin critic Navalny moved to Arctic penal colony: lawyer

MOSCOW

JAILED Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, whose whereabouts were not known for over two weeks, has been moved to a penal colony in the Arctic, allies said Monday.

The disappearance of Russia's most prominent opposition politician, who mobilised huge protests before being jailed in 2021, had spurred concerns from allies, rights groups and Western governments.

It signalled a likely prison transfer, which can take weeks in Russia as prisoners are slowly moved by rail between far-flung facilities.

"We have found Alexei Navalny. He is now in IK-3 in the settlement of Kharp in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District," his ally, Kira Yarmysh, said on social media.

"His lawyer visited him today. Alexei is doing well," Yarmysh added. The district of Kharp, home to about 5,000 people, is located above the Arctic Circle.

It is "one of the most northern and remote colonies," said Ivan Zhdanov, who manages Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation. "Conditions there are harsh, with a special regime in the permafrost zone" and very little contact to the outside world, Zhdanov said.

Navalny was first jailed after surviving an attempt to assassinate him by poisoning. A court extended his sentence to 19 years on extremism charges, and ruled that he be moved to a more secure, harsher prison.

"From the very beginning, it was clear that authorities wanted to isolate Alexei, especially before the elections," Zhdanov also said. Russia will hold a presidential vote in March 2024, expected to easily hand President Vladimir Putin a fifth term.

Moscow has for years sidelined opposition figures from elections and political life, a clampdown that accelerated after the Kremlin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine in 2022. *AFP*

Russia says it seized strategic Maryinka town in east Ukraine

MOSCOW

RUSSIA on Monday said its forces now fully controlled the town of Maryinka in eastern Ukraine, which President Vladimir Putin hailed as a "success" that would mean less shelling on the nearby Russian-held city of Donetsk.

"Our assault units have today completely liberated the settlement of Maryinka," Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told Putin in a meeting shown on state television.

Piles of rubbles and gutted apartment buildings over a wide area could be seen in drone images shown on Russian television that were said to be of Maryinka.

"I want to congratulate you. This is a success which gives Russian troops the opportunity to move into a wider operational area," the Russian president told Shoigu.

Shoigu said the control of Maryinka would enable his soldiers to "move further in this direction" and "make it possible to protect Donetsk more effectively from strikes" from Ukrainian forces. A counter-offensive by Ukrainian forces which started in June along the front line in the south and east of the country has largely petered out, with few successes. Russian forces have increased pressure in recent weeks.

Ukraine said Monday it had shot down 28 Russian drones out of 31 launched from the annexed Crimea peninsula. *AFP*

Serbian opposition plans more protests against election results

OPPOSITION GROUP 'SERBIA AGAINST VIOLENCE' HAS BEEN STAGING PROTESTS SAYING THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD ELECTION FRAUD

AT LEAST 38 ARRESTED

Serbian police said they have detained at least 38 people who took part in a protest against reported widespread irregularities during a general election that declared the governing populists as the winners

STUDENTS BLOCK ROADS

Several hundred university students and other citizens blocked traffic at a key Belgrade street that hosts government headquarters, braving a police warning against the blockades of roads and bridges in the capital

MULTIPLE IRREGULARITIES

Representatives of several international rights watchdogs reported multiple irregularities during the vote, including cases of bought votes and ballot-box stuffing. They also noted unjust conditions for opposition candidates because of media bias, abuse of public resources by the ruling party

Party backed by LeT chief Hafiz Saeed fields candidates in Pak polls

LAHORE

A new political front organisation of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed has fielded candidates for most of the national and provincial assembly constituencies across Pakistan for the February 8 general elections, saying it wants to make the country an Islamic welfare state.

Saeed, the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has been in jail since 2019 after being convicted for several years in multiple terror finance cases along with some other leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). The Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) party — set up by Saeed — says it is a political party. The electoral symbol for the PMML is 'chair'. In a video message, PMML President Khalid Masood Sindhu said that his party is contesting on most of the national and provincial assembly seats.

"We want to come to power not for corruption but to serve the people and make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state," he said. Sindhu is a candidate for NA-130 Lahore, from which Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif is also contesting. Saeed's son Talha Saeed is contesting from Lahore's NA-127. When contacted, Sindhu denied his party's link with Saeed's outfit. "The PMML has no backing of Hafiz Saeed," he claimed on Monday. In 2018, the Milli Muslim League (MML) was the political face of JuD. It had fielded candidates on most seats, especially in Punjab province but failed to win a single seat. *AFP*

NEW TREND

Afghans tie the knot in mass ceremony to cut rising costs

KABUL

FIFTY couples married Monday in a joint ceremony in the Afghan capital — a growing practice to reduce the astronomical cost of traditional weddings in the impoverished country.

The couples were joined in matrimony in one of the dozens of glitzy wedding halls that punctuate Kabul, but the ceremony itself was somewhat austere. Since the return of the Taliban in August 2021 weddings have become low-key affairs, with dancing and music effectively banned after authorities deemed such activities un-Islamic. In front of the City Star wedding hall near the airport, around a hundred turbaned men dressed in traditional shalwar kameez chatted in groups — not a single woman present. They decorated cars with green ribbons and red plastic roses forming hearts to carry the newlyweds away. Roohullah Rezayi, 18, due to leave with his wife in a few hours, told AFP he could not afford a solo wedding. "A traditional wedding would have cost us at least 2,00,000 to 2,50,000 Afghanis ($2,800 to $3,600), but this time it will be between 10,000 and 15,000 Afghanis," he said.

The young man, a member of the Hazara Shiite minority and from Ghor province, earns barely 350 Afghanis per day doing odd jobs. "We invited 35 people from our two families, otherwise it would have been 300 to 400," said the groom, a plastic flower in the breast pocket of his waistcoat worn over a white tunic. Donations to each couple from the Selab Foundation, who organised the event, are equivalent to $1,600 — a huge amount in one of the poorest countries in the world. *AFP*

Grooms arrive during a mass wedding ceremony at a wedding hall in Kabul | AFP

$310 Mn Japanese conglomerate SoftBank to receive from selling shares in omnichannel retailer FirstCry, which is likely to file a draft paper for IPO this week

GST on corp guarantee: Realtors seek revision

'GST should be either on actual or 1% of guarantee, whichever is lower'

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

REAL estate developers have made representation before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to make amends in the recent circular of imposing 18% GST on corporate guarantees given by related parties, as per government sources.

"As per developers, 18% GST should be imposed on either actual consideration or 1% of the guarantee amount, whichever is lower," a highly placed source said. Notably, as per the circular, the consideration value on which the GST will be levied is higher of either the actual payout or 1% of the loan amount.

Besides realty developers, other industry bodies are also in the process of making representation before the government in respect of recent ruling. "Currently the courts are on vacations. We will file the writ petition in the first or second week of January," another source said.

Meanwhile, as per government sources, the next GST Council meet may take up the above issue for discussion. The 53rd Council meeting will likely take place in January.

According to experts, the recent ruling by the Council will have a significant impact on the infrastructure and real estate sector, which heavily relies on external financing and borrowing for large-scale projects.

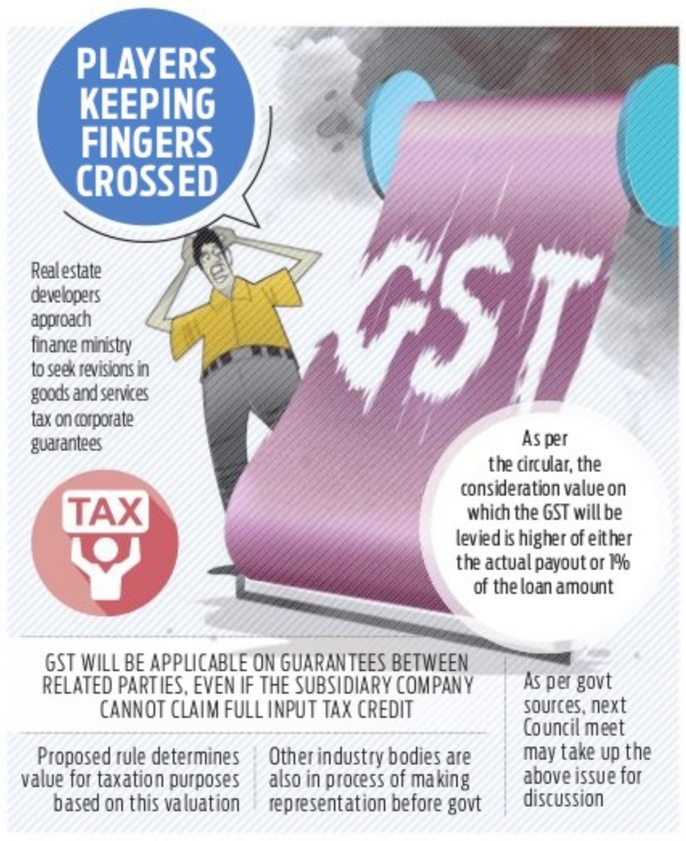
The new rule states that the taxable value of corporate guarantees will be either 1% of the guarantee amount or the actual consideration paid for providing the corporate guarantee, whichever is higher. This means that GST will be applicable on guarantees between related parties, even if the subsidiary company cannot claim full input tax credit. The proposed rule determines the value for taxation purposes based on this valuation.

Manish Mishra, Partner and Head of Practice - Indirect Tax at JSA Advocates & Solicitors, had earlier told this newspaper that guarantees issued by the parent company on behalf of lending banks should not be considered a service to the subsidiary. He argued that guarantees, being actionable claims, do not fall under the category of goods or services and should not be subject to GST.

Mishra pointed out that the parent company cannot charge a consideration to the subsidiary due to the commitment made to the banks, which further supports the argument against GST imposition in the absence of consideration.

Ruling to impact infra, real estate sector

According to experts, the recent ruling by the Council will have a significant impact on the infrastructure and real estate sector, which heavily relies on external financing and borrowing for large-scale projects. Realtors may file writ petition in the first or second week of January


PLAYERS KEEPING FINGERS CROSSED
Real estate developers approach finance ministry to seek revisions in goods and services tax on corporate guarantees
TAX
GST
As per the circular, the consideration value on which the GST will be levied is higher of either the actual payout or 1% of the loan amount
GST WILL BE APPLICABLE ON GUARANTEES BETWEEN RELATED PARTIES, EVEN IF THE SUBSIDIARY COMPANY CANNOT CLAIM FULL INPUT TAX CREDIT
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Other industry bodies are also in process of making representation before govt
As per govt sources, next Council meet may take up the above issue for discussion

Paytm lays off 1,000 as company introduces AI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN one of the biggest job cuttings at new-age companies, fintech giant Paytm giant has laid off more than 1,000 employees from its operations, sales and engineering team.

While Paytm largely attributes the job cuts to the implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) to increase efficiency, this exercise comes as the Noida-based company is scaling down its small loan disbursement business.

"We are transforming our operations with AI-powered automation to drive efficiency, eliminating repetitive tasks and roles to drive efficiency across growth and costs, resulting in a slight reduction in our workforce in operations and marketing. We will be able to save 10-15% in employee costs as AI has delivered more than we expected it to. Additionally, we constantly evaluate cases of non-performance throughout the year," said Paytm's spokesperson.

"Insurance and Wealth will be a logical expansion of our platform, in continuation of our focus on the existing businesses. Having shown the strength of our distribution-based business model in loan distribution, we are expanding the same to focus on new businesses to drive scale," the spokesperson said.

According to a source aware of the development, a large chunk of employees who have been asked to exit belong to the lending team. "This was an expected move after the recent developments in the small lending business," the source said.

Following the tightening of terms and conditions around unsecured lending by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Paytm recently decided to scale down its small-ticket loans business of less than Rs 50,000. The company earlier this month had said that it would expand its high-ticket personal loans and merchant loans. According to Paytm's September quarter numbers, postpaid loans amounting to less than Rs 50,000 comprised 72-75% of Paytm's total disbursements in the Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) category.

We will be able to save 10-15% in employee costs as AI has delivered more than we expected it to. Additionally, we constantly evaluate cases of non-performance throughout the year

Paytm spokesperson

PUBLIC FINANCE

Disinvestment fetches over ₹4.20 lakh cr in 10 years

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

WITH general elections are not very far, the government's privatisation bandwagon has almost but stalled as a government wary of being accused of selling family silver opts for minority stake sales on stock exchanges over outright privatisation.

The result -- the disinvestment target for current fiscal year is again likely to be missed. Big ticket privatisation plans such as that of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and CONCOR are already on the backburner and analysts feel meaningful privatisation can happen only after April/May general elections.

In the current fiscal, out of the budgeted amount of ₹51,000 crore, about 20 per cent or Rs 10,049 crore has been collected through minority stake sales via IPO (Initial Public Offering) and OFS (Offer For Sale).

Strategic sale of a host of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), including SCI, NMDC Steel Ltd, BEML, HLL Lifecare and IDBI Bank, are in the pipeline for completion in the current fiscal.

However, with the process of due diligence and demerger of core and non-core assets yet to be completed with respect to most of the CPSEs, there has been a delay in inviting financial bids. In the case of IDBI Bank, where the government had received multiple EoIs (Expressions of Interest) back in January 2023, the bidders are yet to get security and 'fit & proper' clearance from the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), respectively.

Hence the privatisation of all the CPSEs in the list and IDBI Bank are likely to spill over into the next financial year. - *With PTI inputs*

China to give assistance to arrested Vivo execs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

CHINA will provide consular protection and assistance to two Chinese employees of Vivo arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case.

China's foreign ministry spokesperson, in a statement, urged New Delhi not to discriminate between companies of Indian and Chinese origin. "We are following what you mentioned. Chinese government firmly supports Chinese companies to safeguard their lawful rights and interests," Mao Ning told a press conference.

ED has arrested three top executives of Vivo India in connection with the probe into alleged money laundering by the Chinese smartphone maker. These include Vivo India interim CEO Hong Xuquan, Vivo chief financial officer Harinder Dahiya and consultant Hemant Munjal. The arrest comes two months after ED arrested four industry executives, including a Chinese national (Kyang alias Andrew Kuang) working for Vivo's Indian arm, Lava International MD Hari Om Rai and chartered accountants Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik.

Vivo remitted ₹62,476 crore, about 50% of the turnover out of India, mainly to China. These remittances were made in order to disclose huge losses in Indian incorporated firms to avoid payment of taxes in India, said ED in its press note earlier.

ED conducted raids on Vivo-India and its affiliated individuals in July of the preceding year, exposing what it claimed to be a major money laundering network involving Chinese nationals and Indian companies. ED conducted raids over 48 locations last year including the Vivo mobile premises and its 23 associated companies such as Grand Prospect International Communication Pvt Ltd (GPICPL).

Telecommunications Bill overcomes last hurdle as President gives assent

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE President has given assent to the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, on Sunday (December 24), making it into law.

The Act received the assent of the President on the and the same was notified in the gazette. As per the gazette notification, the Act amends and consolidates the law relating to development, expansion and operation of telecomservices and telecommunication networks; assignment of spectrum; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

"The new Telecommunications Act 2023 is a path breaking step that will catalyse India's telecom growth story and bring in reforms in tune with emerging communication technologies thanks to the vision of Prime minister, Telecom minister Ashwini Vaisnhaw and the state telecom minister Devunish Chauhan," said the telecom secretary in a tweet.

This law replaces the 138-year-old Indian Telegraph Act that governs the telecom sector with a comprehensive framework. As per the Act, the companies will no longer be required to undergo licensing process; a simple authorisation will suffice to provide telecom services in the country. It has provision for penalties or fines in case of harm to telecom infrastructure, direct allocation of satellite spectrum and mandatory biometrics before issuing SIM cards to consumers. It also opens the possibility that the TRAI chairperson and members may now be appointed from the private sector.

However, the bill invited controversy by including provisions like temporarily taking control of telecom services, intercepting messages and asking firms to ease encryption, among other issues. Firms such as Signal Foundation, Access Now, Eko and Digital Rights Watch Freedom House, among others, have collectively demanded a rollback of the Bill, citing its potential pact on privacy.

EXPRESS READ

First rupee payment for oil to UAE, India looks for more deals

New Delhi: India's first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchased from the UAE is helping the world's third largest energy consumer push for taking the local currency global, officials said, adding internationalisation is a process and there are no targets. With the nation more than 85% dependent on imports, India has been pursuing a three-pronged strategy of buying from cheapest available source, diversifying sources of supply. *PTI*

Rise in gap between standalone, consolidated net profit of RIL

New Delhi: The gap between Reliance Industries standalone and consolidated net profit has more than doubled to ₹22,400 crore in last couple of years, as the retail and telecom businesses housed in separate subsidiaries saw significant growth, a report said. "Gap between Reliance's standalone and consolidated profit after tax (PAT) has increased significantly - from ₹8,400 crore in FY20 (April 2019 to March 2020) to ₹22,400 crore in FY23," JP Morgan said. *PTI*

Small stocks lead 2023 bull run; give big returns to investors

New Delhi: Smaller stocks have emerged as Dalal Street's favourites in 2023 that has turned out to be a "great year" for equities, rewarding investors with big gains, driven by optimism over the country's macroeconomic fundamentals and heavy retail investors participation. Experts said equity markets are experiencing a prolonged bull run and it is during this time that the midcap and smallcap segments tend to outshine their larger counterparts. *PTI*

Premium residential market witnesses price appreciation of up to 45% in 2023

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ON the back of strong demand for expensive housing amid a robust sentiment in the market, premium residential market in major cities is seeing significant price appreciation, led by Gurugram, followed by Noida in 2023, as per Savills India, a global property consulting firm.

Savills in a report said completed projects in most cities have seen higher appreciation in capital values as against under-construction projects and this preference could be influenced by factors such as reduced uncertainty, availability for use, and the ability to assess the actual quality and features of the property. As the residential market gains momentum and capital values see a surge in recent months, buyers are motivated to make purchasing decisions.

In most Indian cities, properties priced upwards of ₹1.50 crore are considered as premium or luxury. In MMR, this segment starts at ₹2.50-3 crore. Industry reports claim the share of this segment in housing sales across top cities has tripled in last five years from below 10% in 2018 to over 27% in 2023.

Mumbai saw an average 9% year-on-year (YOY) rise in capital values for completed properties and a 4% YOY rise for under-construction properties. New Delhi saw a rise of 18% YOY in average capital value of luxury floors. Arvind Nandan, Managing Director, Research & Consulting, Savills India said, "As we step into 2024, the outlook for the premium to luxury residential segment in key urban hubs like NCR and Mumbai remains exceptionally promising."

As we step into 2024, outlook for premium to luxury residential segment in urban hubs like NCR, Mumbai remains promising. Doubling of new launches in Gurugram and Noida reflects growing appetite for luxury residences — Arvind Nandan, MD, Research & Consulting, Savills India

CLEAN ENERGY

Adani Green signs 1,799 Mw PPA with SECI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI GREEN ENERGY LTD (AGEL), the renewable energy arm of the Adani Group, has announced the execution of power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 1,799 MW of solar power.

With the signing of this PPA, AGEL has completed the power offtake tie-up for the entire 8,000 MW manufacturing-linked solar tender awarded to it by SECI in June 2020.

Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) is a Central PSU under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) set up in 2011

In a press statement issued on Monday, Adani Green says that it has progressed on the commitments of the SECI manufacturing-linked solar PV tender, including setting up 2 GW of PV cell and module manufacturing facilities.

"AGEL has already commissioned a solar PV cell and module manufacturing plant with a capacity of 2 GW per annum through its associate company Mundra Solar Energy Ltd (MSEL). The plant is located at Mundra, Gujarat. AGEL holds 26% shares of MSEL through its wholly owned subsidiary Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Ltd," the company said in the statement.

SECI is one of the nodal agencies for implementation of a number of schemes of MNRE. SECI has ventured into solar project development on turnkey basis for several PSUs/Government departments.

FARM TECHNOLOGY

Farm drone adoption expected to pick up significantly from 2024

VAITHEESWARAN B @ chennai

FARM drones adoption is expected to pick up significantly from 2024 as the tech ecosystem surrounding it matures, favorable policy environment and surge in demand from various quarters, including corporate farming.

Ramanathan Narayanan, co-founder and chief executive of Daksha Unmanned Systems, a Chennai-based drone start-up, said demand for the agri drones is going up from thousands to five lakh in the next few years. He said they're ramping up production facility and establishing a new facility with a capacity to 12,000 drones a year to meet the demand. He stressed the importance of increasing skilled pilots in the farm sector to about 3,000 at present to 2 lakh in the next two years.

Narayanan said opportunities in corporate farming are big and currently Indian players are exploring the huge potential in agri drone exports. "The adoption of nano-fertilizers, which cannot be sprayed manually, increases the scope for drones," he added.

Coromandel International, an agriculture input focused company from Murugappa group, has picked up a majority stake in Daksha. Agricultural drones are used in wide-ranging applications including spraying pesticides, fertilizers, crop monitoring, yield estimation among other things.

Business models

Since drones are not affordable for majority of small and marginal farmers, the drone-as-as service model of leasing just like tractors is evolving. This is offered by third-party players and by the OEMs in some cases. It is sold through dealers, distributors, FPOs, FPCs (farmer producer company), and village entrepreneurs.

Limitation of battery capacity, lack of financing models or difficulties in obtaining subsidies for drones pose challenges for farmers, said R Subash Naidu, a farm union leader in Tamil Nadu. "Despite, announcement of the subsidies, it needs to be seen on the ground," he said. Farmers and drone enthusiasts agree that shortage of labour, need to avoid exposure to fertilizers and chemicals to humans all suggest drone penetration is set to rise.

Ramanathan Narayanan said the cost of renting became lower than manual spraying and estimated about 30% reduction in fertilizer usage. Calling it 'third-wave of agriculture revolution', the Union government is taking efforts to increase awareness about drones in the farming sector with demonstrations and outreach programs. Incentives like subsidies of up to ₹5 lakh for small and marginal farmers, providing drone pilot training, providing 15,000 drones to selected women self-help group for rental services to farmers.

Prem Kumar, chief executive of Marut Drones, a Hyderabad-based start-up, said the Center's nod for pilot training in regional languages, instead of only English as instruction language is a major step in providing training in rural areas. He said liberalisation of pilot training programmes will boost skilling in rural areas. Prem Kumar too asserts that the demand for drones is one the rise, but acknowledges that difficulties persist in getting loans or subsidies.

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Cummins backs Khawaja on peace sign issue

Australian captain Pat Cummins on Monday came in support of **Usman Khawaja**, saying the opener's attempt to bring to the fore the humanitarian crisis in Gaza was "not offensive". Cricket's governing body ICC has rejected Khawaja's application to have a sticker showing a black dove holding an olive branch on his bat and shoes during the Boxing Day Test against Pakistan.

If 2022 Olympiad was a stepping stone, Indian chess has scaled new peaks in 2023 with as many as three players qualifying for Candidates so far. **Swaroop Swaminathan** takes a look at the rise of the next generation in the sport and how it all happened...

MAKING GIANT MOVES

CHESS has always held a pride of place for Indians. Cricket may have produced world champions in the 1980s but Viswanathan Anand had become one of the country's first individual winners of a world title. Anand's exploits over the chess board has been well recognised by the government awards that have come his way.

He was the first recipient of the Khel Ratna in the early 1990s. By a quirk, Manuel Aaron, the country's first International Master, had got the Arjuna award in 1961, in its inaugural edition. In a country filled with male superstars like Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, Leander Paes and Prakash Padukone, Anand was conferred with the Padma Vibushan in 2007, the first sportsperson to receive the second highest civilian honour. This is a roundabout way of saying India likes its chess players.

It was Aaron who developed a foundation for chess in Chennai. It was Anand who showcased what was possible on a square not more than 21 inches long on all four sides. While the 54-year-old has carried the responsibility for being India's flagbearer for almost three decades, that has slowly changed. Other players have had significant victories (Koneru Humpy had won World Rapid gold in 2019, for example) while young players have frequently raised the bar when it comes to winning GM norms. Yet, for all of that, what was missing was a watershed moment.

It's why 2023 feels so significant. A watershed year when a whole host of Indians turned water into wine. R Praggnanandhaa opened the floodgates by qualifying for the Candidates. D Gukesh overtook Anand in terms of rating, a feat that hadn't been achieved for over 35 years. Vidit Gujrathi won the Grand Swiss to book his Candidates spot. R Vaishali became just the third Indian woman to become a GM apart from rubber-stamping a women's Candidates berth. Humpy is odds on to feature in that field because of a very consistent year. As long as Anish Giri doesn't feature at the podium in the upcoming World Rapid and Blitz, Gukesh will join Gujrathi and Praggnanandhaa in the eight-man Candidates field. Put it this way — out of the 16 Candidates, more than 30 per cent could be from India.

At one point of time, it was just Anand. Now, Anand's academy and other coaches are churning potential champions like it's the easiest thing in the world.

RB Ramesh, one of those coaches responsible for sea change (his chess gurukul is one of the most prominent destinations to learn the board game in Chennai), picks up the story. "Change has been gradual but steady," he tells this daily. "20-25 years ago, it was just Vishy. Back then, most of us didn't even have the confidence that we could become a GM. In my case, I started playing chess at 12. When I was 19, I became an IM. Even at that point, I didn't think I would become a GM."

Finish Line 2023

7 No of Indians who became GMs in 2023

3 No of Indians who have assured themselves of a Candidates spot in 2024 (two more, D Gukesh and Koneru Humpy, are odds on to get there)

2758
Gukesh achieved a peak rating of 2758 in August which enabled him to overtake Anand

NOVEMBER
Both Vidit Gujrathi and **R Vaishali** won the Grand Swiss titles in November

1 **Praggnanandhaa** was one match away from winning the World Cup but he lost to Magnus Carlsen in the final

These days, the teens have been able to marry confidence with ability. Here's Anand. "It's clear that all of them are comfortable when they play against the world's top five," he had told during the Chennai Grand Masters meet a few days ago. "There's nothing to suggest they are out place. They are a stable golden generation. In two-three years, we could have two-three in the top 20 (in terms of ratings). When I started the Westbridge-Anand Academy, I thought it would be great to get there in four-five years. But, boom, we have got there in half the time."

How did it happen? Precocious kids taking up the game at the same time is the rudimentary answer. Ramesh, whose academy handles a lot of these teens including Praggnanandhaa and his elder sister, Vaishali, is more intimate. "It started with (Krishnan) Sasikiran," he tells. "He was extremely ambitious. He started travelling abroad and made his IM and GM norms there. That kind of showed the way. We got a lot of young players who started travelling for their norms. This was basically the foundation for what's happening. You don't have to wait for the norms to come to India when you could chase the norms."

The available evidence bears this out. Sasikiran was India's fifth GM. A total of five GMs in 12 years. That number has compounded to 84 in 23 years. In fact, the country has seen at least one player going on to become a GM every year over the last 23 years save 2005.

If that sort of heralded the modern growth of chess in the country, it has turbocharged over the last six years with the pandemic sandwiched. Forty have achieved the third and final GM norm since the beginning of 2017.

Ramesh explains why. "Over a period of time, we also had players who had retired from chess to focus more on training which wasn't there earlier. So we (my generation) had to rely on foreign trainers. We started to have Indian trainers who understand Indian psychology better. All of this put together meant we have an ecosystem." This is true. Anand, Pravin Thipsay, Ramesh, Vishnu Prasanna, Srinath Narayan, Dibyendu Barua, Sandipan Chanda, Abhijit Kunte... they are all GMs who have coached or trained or mentored the brightest chess kids over the last five years or so.

Consider the examples of Gukesh (coached by Prasanna) or Prananadhaa (coached by Ramesh) who became GMs in 2018 and 2019 respectively. They have had Indian trainers and have had the opportunity to travel the world where they have played the best.

Here's where attitude also plays a big role. Just before the Olympiad, Ramesh had explained the metamorphosis of an Indian chess-playing teen and why it's different to the West. "We don't frown upon hard work,"

he had said then. "In the West, there's a tendency to say 'you are missing out from having a complete childhood'. Here, fortunately we appreciate it. Many children take it up seriously at a very young age when they have fewer distractions (social media and video games). So, they are more hopeful and energetic. It's the best age to learn. Anyone who starts young and works hard, they have a better chance."

There's a saying that goes 'a rising tide lifts all boats'. The emergence of Anand was that moment. Now, though, is something bigger. Greater. 2023 stands testament to that.

RAIN THREAT LOOMS AS INDIA FACE SA

As the focus shifts to the longest format with the Boxing Day Test, a look at the key contests...

RABADA VS GILL

Shubman Gill, in his No 3 avatar, will face a different challenge in South Africa. He might be a strokemaker, unlike his predecessor Cheteshwar Pujara, but he has a similar chink in the armour like the latter — the incoming delivery. Expect Kagiso Rabada to test him when he takes guard.

COETZEE VS SHARMA

Rohit Sharma's record as a Test batter in SA is something he would want to rectify, but given the conditions on offer, it will not be easy. The weather and sideways movement apart, Sharma will be tested by the bounce generated by Gerald Coetzee. As someone who cannot stay away from pulling the short ball, he will be keen to take on the young pacer, which could work in the favour of the hosts as well.

PRASIDH OR MUKESH

While it seems likely that Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur are going to be part of Playing XI, either of Prasidh Krishna or Mukesh Kumar will get a chance. Given his extra height, Prasidh might get the nod, but it might all come down to the day of the match.

WEATHER WATCH

It seems likely that the first day could entirely be called off as there is a 44 per cent chance of thunderstorms on Tuesday. The forecast for Day 2 is not bright either, but it is expected to get better from Thursday.

South Africa vs India, 1st Test, Centurion
Live on Star Sports and Hotstar, 1.30 PM

Acid Test: Rohit seeking redemption

GOMESH S @ Chennai

WHEN Rohit Sharma landed in South Africa with the Indian contingent for the 2013 summer, he was on top of the world. In the months leading up to that, he had smashed an ODI double century, made his Test debut in Sachin Tendulkar's farewell series, smashed back-to-back centuries in the format, including one in Mumbai, the home ground for him and the Master Blaster. It was the beginning of a transition phase for India with Chesteshwar Pujara (No. 3), Virat Kohli (No. 4), Rohit Sharma (No. 5) and Ajinkya Rahane (No. 6) playing their first of their overseas Tests together.

That series was supposed to have been the place where Sharma's Test career took off. However, that was not the case. He had a horror tour with the bat, some good deliveries, some soft dismissals, some brain fade moments like the one where he left the very first ball he faced in Durban against Dale Steyn only for the delivery to come back in and hit the stumps. His scores read — 14, 6, 0, 25. From thereon, despite his stellar growth in limited-overs, it took over six years for Sharma to make a spot his own in the longest format, and he did it as an opener against the same opponents at home. Since that Vizag Test in 2019, Sharma is the third leading run-scorer among openers in Tests, and has the joint-highest number of centuries as an opener (7) along with Dimuth Karunaratne. He has become the all-format captain, and led India to the final of a home ODI World Cup as well. Ten years after his first big challenge in the longest format, Sharma returns to the same country, this time as the Indian captain, hoping to leave a mark not just as a batter, but also as a leader. South Africa is the only SENA country where India are yet to win a Test series.

Sharma, the captain, is very much aware of the challenge that lies ahead. "These are very important matches in terms of where we stand as a team," he said on the eve of the Boxing Day Test against South Africa in Centurion. "Also, to look back that we have never won a series here as well, it's a big opportunity for us to do well here. We came pretty close the last two times when we toured here but again we have come to this place with a lot of confidence to try and achieve what nobody (Indian) team has ever achieved in this part of the world."

While, Sharma and head coach Rahul Dravid might have the will to make history, it is not going to be a cakewalk. They do not have Mohammed Shami who has been an integral part of the team for the past decade. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj will have to share the responsibility with the new ball. KL Rahul, who has been a Test opener, will be keeping wickets and bat in middle-order. And there are several new faces in the team as well. In fact, to be precise, Sharma, Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin are the only ones who played in the 2013 tour. As it was the case back then, the team has begun the transition phase and the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, and Shubman Gill will be playing in the Rainbow Nation for the very first time. However, the captain is realistic about what lies ahead and backs the youngsters to come good like the seniors did in the past. "That's a challenge. But at some point, we (him, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul) were also newcomers when we came to South Africa or Australia or England. And it's the same for these guys as well," he said.

For the past month, the mood in Indian cricket has been hot and cold, with the heartbreak that happened in Ahmedabad on November 19. And this Indian team has the perfect opportunity to turn the tide and make history in what has been the final frontier for a while now. Will they be able to? As Sharma said, "We have been working so hard, it's time we get some big results."

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

India have toured South Africa nine times, winning only four of the 23 Tests they have played in the country. A look at how the past series turned out...

1992 (4 TESTS)
INDIA 0-1 SOUTH AFRICA
Their first home Test series since readmission and this tour was about more than just what happens on the field. The hosts secured the series 1-0, having beaten India by nine wickets at Gqeberha in the third Test.

1996 (3 TESTS)
INDIA 0-2 SOUTH AFRICA
India suffered a massive loss in the first Test, but got better as the series progressed. That partnership between Mohammed Azharuddin and Sachin Tendulkar in Cape Town was one for the ages. India eventually drew the final Test at Johannesburg, and lost the series 2-0.

2001 (2 TESTS)
INDIA 0-1 SOUTH AFRICA
The two-match series that was marred by ball tampering allegations was won by the hosts as they handed a nine-wicket loss to their opponents in the opener. The only positive for India was the debut of a promising young batter called Virender Sehwag.

2006 (3 TESTS)
INDIA 1-2 SOUTH AFRICA
Under Rahul Dravid, India were proactive as they registered their first Test win in the country, securing a 1-0 lead. However, they let go of the momentum and lost the next two games to concede the series.

2010 (3 TESTS)
INDIA 1-1 SOUTH AFRICA
This series was one of the ages, purely for the contest between Dale Steyn and Sachin Tendulkar. The latter had a last wave of sorts, scoring record-breaking hundreds and helping India win a Test along the way. It was the first time India drew a Test series in South Africa.

2013 (2 TESTS)
INDIA 0-1 SOUTH AFRICA
A team in transition was greeted by an all-time great Proteas pace attack, yet, Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara stepped up. So did Murali Vijay & Ajinkya Rahane. India, however, did not have the bowling attack and Jacques Kallis bid adieu to the sport on a high in Durban.

2017 (3 TESTS)
INDIA 1-2 SOUTH AFRICA
They had the squad, but selection and Virat Kohli's captaincy choices meant India took two matches to get their combination right, and that cost them the series, despite winning the last game of the series.

2021 (3 TESTS)
INDIA 1-2 SOUTH AFRICA
Another tour & another chance missed. SA's batting & bowling weren't the same and India had the momentum, having won the first Test. Kohli got injured, missed a game, Dean Elgar pulled off a heist to level series. And then, he did it again to help the host secure series.

EXPRESS READ

Manju, Sakshi storm into quarterfinals

GREATER NOIDA: 2019 World Championships silver medallist Manju Rani (48kg) and two-time youth world champion Sakshi (57kg) maintained their impressive form by advancing to the quarterfinals on day four of the Women's National Boxing Championships at the GBU Indoor Stadium in Greater Noida.

AIFF chief calls for meeting with referees

NEW DELHI: All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey has called for a meeting with the Referees Committee and Chief Refereeing Officer Trevor Kettle on December 31 to review the refereeing situation in the country. A team of referee assessors is also set to attend the meeting.

Shreyanka & Saika named in ODI squad for Oz series

AGENCIES

SHREYANKA Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque and Titas Sadhu were on Monday included for the first time in the ODI squad for the upcoming limited overs assignment against Australia. India will play in three One-day Internationals and as many T20Is against the visiting Australian team from December 28 with the first ODI at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

Shreyanka earned her maiden ODI call-up after she made her debut in the T20I series against England earlier this month. A crafty left-arm-spinner, the Patiala-born Kashyap, 20, was earlier called up for the T20I series against England but did not get a game. In three matches against Heather Knight's women, Shreyanka picked up five wickets and won the Player of the Match award in the third and final T20I of the series.

ODI squad: Kaur (C), Mandhana (VC), Rodrigues, Verma, Deepti, Yastika (wk), Richa (wk), Amanjot, Shreyanka, Mannat, Saika, Renuka, Titas, Pooja, Sneh, Harleen. **T20I Squad:** Kaur (C), Mandhana (VC), Rodrigues, Verma, Deepti, Yastika (wk), Richa (wk), Amanjot, Shreyanka, Mannat, Saika, Renuka, Titas, Pooja, Kanika, Minnu.

Kashyap was part of India's victorious women's Under-19 World Cup winning squad in February, and so was Titas Sadhu. Saika Ishaque was one of the top bowlers for the Mumbai franchise in the inaugural Women's Premier League.

Brazil in danger of suffering FIFA suspension

AGENCIES @ Rio de Janeiro

FIFA warned Brazil on Sunday it could suspend its national teams and clubs from international competitions if an intervention by its soccer body leads to the election of a new president in January. FIFA said in a letter to a Brazilian soccer executive that the country's soccer body CBF could face suspension if it does not heed its call to wait and instead holds a swift election to replace Ednaldo Rodrigues as president regardless. A Rio de Janeiro court removed Rodrigues and all his appointees at CBF from office on Dec. 7 due to irregularities in his election last year. Brazil's two highest courts upheld that ruling last week.

Ultimate Kho Kho: Gujarat post win

AGENCIES @ Cuttack

GUJARAT Giants showcased a complete performance in attack and defence as they defeated Rajasthan Warriors 41-30 in their first match of the Ultimate Kho Kho Season 2 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack on Monday.

P Narasayya contributed to the Giants' win with 8 points while Sanket Kadam and Suyash Gargate notched up 6 points each in the match.

Shubham Thorat, Abhinandan Patil and Akshay Bhangare defended brilliantly for more than 6.53 minutes to earn crucial dream run bonus points for the winning team. Gujarat stayed on the top of the game from the get-go as they earned a dream run in the first turn, allowing Rajasthan to get only 14 points.

Action from match between Gujarat Giants & Rajasthan Warriors.

They maintained their positive intent when they switched to chase and notched up 22 points to obtain a big lead. Rajasthan began the second inning aggressively and got the first batch of Gujarat's defence in just 1.30 minutes. However, Gujarat then earned two dream run bonus points to turn the match completely in their favour. Rajasthan managed to gain 16 points during the third turn but it wasn't enough.

Radiosurgery delivers a high intensity of radiation to a small area all at once. The method also delivers a higher dose of radiation to a tumor. Radiosurgery has a lower risk of side effects than other types of traditional surgery or radiation therapy.

NEWS CAPSULES

Move to set up independent regulator for health insurance lauded by association

New Delhi: The Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPI) has lauded the Ministry of Finance for contemplating setting up an independent regulator for health insurance. The ministries of finance and health are in discussions over the need for a sector watchdog to help achieve the IRDAI Vision 2047. The AHPI, representing a vast majority of private sector hospitals in the country, is also represented on the IRDAI advisory for the healthcare sector. In an official letter, the AHPI said, "This is a welcome move as making healthcare available, accessible and affordable has been resolved by the present government." AHPI has suggested that the proposed regulator, besides regulating the private insurance sector, must also cover all insurance schemes run by the government, such as PMJAY, CGHS, ECHS, ESI etc.

AI tool that uses a person's life events to predict their personality to lifespan

New Delhi: Researchers have developed an AI tool that uses sequences of life events such as health history, education, job and income to predict everything from an individual's personality to their lifespan. Built using transformer models, which power large language models like ChatGPT, the tool called life2vec is trained on a data set pulled from the entire population of Denmark. Life2vec is capable of predicting the future, including the lifespan of individuals, with an accuracy that exceeds state-of-the-art models, the researchers said. However, despite its predictive power, the team said it is best used as the foundation for future work, not an end in itself. "Even though we're using prediction to evaluate how good these models are, the tool shouldn't be used for prediction on real people," says Tina Eliassi-Rad, a professor at Northeastern University, US.

RADIOSURGERY

TREATING TUMOURS IN UNDER A DAY

COST

The cost of the procedure may vary from `1 lakh to `3 lakh, depending on the centre chosen by the patient. "Including direct and direct cost for several days, the cost of radiosurgery is cheaper compared to radiation therapy, as it is a one-time procedure. It is an affordable treatment method for people in middle and high-income groups," said Dr Debnarayan Dutta, assistant professor at Amrita Hospital.

ANNA JOSE @ Kochi

RADIATION therapy, also known as radiotherapy, is a common treatment for cancer, but it takes around 25 to 30 days or sittings. However, patients can opt for radiosurgery treatment which can last from a few minutes to a few hours, depending on the location and type of area being treated. However, for several reasons - the lack of expertise and awareness, the less time-consuming treatment method is not popular in India. "Lars Leksell, a Swedish neurosurgeon who was also specialised in radiation, invented the method in the 1960s. The surgery takes only a day. So, he combined radiation with surgery - to treat tiny tumours in a day. The primary criterion, to apply the method, is the tumour has to be small/ tiny and the treatment is restricted to the tiny tumour. If a larger area has to be treated - we cannot opt for radiosurgery," said Dr Arunlal, consultant radiation oncologist at Lisie Hospital, Kochi.

"In the last 10 to 12 years, there has been a shift in terms of indications, data generation and refinement of the treatment. We have 10-year follow-up data that shows how safe and effective radiosurgery is. It has helped to improve the acceptance of radiosurgery," said Dr Debnarayan Dutta, assistant professor with the department of radiotherapy at Amrita Hospital, adding that robotic radiosurgery came to India in 2010.

Earlier, the procedure, called stereotactic radiosurgery, was only used to treat brain conditions. The technology can be now used to treat small tumours in the lungs and liver. The procedure is called steriotypic body radiotherapy.

"We never used radiosurgery for prostate, liver or lung diseases earlier. Now it has become standard care. If someone has a small bone metastasis, it is treated with radiosurgery and the outcome is better than the conventional surgery. It is similar for the lungs and liver too," added Debnarayan.

The procedure is similar to radiation therapy. "For a patient undergoing radiosurgery, it is pretty similar to standard radiation treatment. An initial planning scan will be performed with an immobilisation device, on which the doctors mark the area to be treated and the normal tissues to be spared. The planning takes place where angles are decided which will optimally treat the tumour and spare unaffected tissues. On the day of treatment, the patient will once again lie on the couch, scans will be taken to verify the position and treatment will be delivered. It will be painless and completely non-invasive. Unlike earlier, there is no need for fixed frames or fiducials to track in modern radiation oncology. Most of the difficult work is behind the scenes and patients can enjoy the benefits," said Arunlal.

Advantages

"The difference between radiation therapy and radiosurgery is the time required for treatment. Conventional radiation will require 25 to 30 sittings. In radiosurgery, it is given in a single shot. The radiation dose to surrounding parts is reduced and thus the side effect profile of the method is less," added Arunlal. "Radiosurgery is a short treatment, usually lasting one to five days. So the recovery time for patients, bystanders, day losses etc is lesser. It does not have many side effects. The quality of life is better maintained in radiosurgery as there aren't many reactions," said Debnarayan.

"In case of brain metastasis, we don't have to treat the whole brain. When we treat the brain completely, they may experience memory decline and it can be avoided when radiosurgery is used. Also, in certain cases, it can be an acceptable alternative to surgery," added Arunlal.

Options available

The treatment is available in almost all major cities in India. "High-end Linear accelerator (LINAC) machines that can give both conventional radiation treatment and radiosurgery are available in all major super-speciality hospitals. Facilities for gamma knife radiosurgery are available in AIIMS Delhi, NIMHANS Bangalore, Apollo Hospitals etc," said Arunlal. "We need the expertise, machine and team to perform the procedure to deliver the high dose. We cannot make any errors. Expertise is critical. It is the only thing that stops the expansion of radiosurgery in India," added Debnarayan.

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26•12•2023
TUESDAY

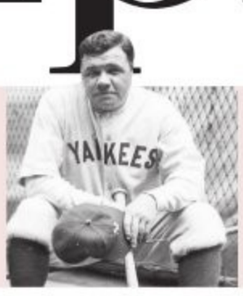
DAY'S DIARY

Regrettable decision

Boston Red Sox created a controversy with their decision to sell Babe Ruth (Bambino) to the New York Yankees on this day in 1919

THE TRADE

Ruth, aware of his popularity within the sport, wanted to double his salary. After the 1919 season, Red Sox owner and Broadway producer Harry Frazee sold Bambino for $125,000



CURSE OF THE BAMBINO

The transformation of the teams was so stark that superstitious Red Sox fans mused that a vengeful Ruth had cast a curse over the club after his departure

CURSE BREAKS

After 86 long, torturous years, in October 2004, the beloved Red Sox won the World Series and put the infamous 'Curse of the Bambino' to rest

A curated guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Singer-turned-life coach Avrril Quadros partakes in Christmas celebrations at her residence in the city

Entrepreneurs and house-proud old Bengalureans Priya and Mohan Mascarenhas opted for a green Christmas decor this season, with the flowering plant poinsettia, also known as the December Lady, serving as the theme. Poinsettias in different shades of white, red and yellow adorned the Mascarenhas' garden, which has won the Outstanding Ornamental Garden by the Mysore Horticulture Society, Bengaluru, for the last four decades | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Writer Zac O'Yeah, who has made Bengaluru his home from 2000, shows off a Julebord, a classic Scandinavian feast on Christmas, at his residence

Showcasing kimonos inherited from her mother, Miho Sakata Malhan hopes to highlight similarities between India & Japan

Kimono 'Konnect'

MONIKA MONALISA

MIHO Sakata Malhan, a Japanese expat living in Bengaluru from 2005, hardly wore a kimono growing up. Or for that matter, she hardly saw her mother wear one either. But her love for textiles and culture got her curious about it, and last month she had an opportunity to wear a yukata (casual summer kimono that is relatively easy to wear) just before temporarily returning to Japan. With compliments coming her way, she decided to explore a few shops in Japan and entered a thrift store in her hometown of Fukuoka. Needless to say, she was like a little girl in a candy store. She managed to pick a few for herself and also showed off her shopping haul to her mother. That's the moment her mother revealed that there were old kimonos and obis (a wide sash or belt made of satin or a stiff silk material worn around a kimono) which she had neatly preserved for many decades. "I had not seen my mother in a kimono since I was a child. I thought she must have gotten rid of them when we moved houses," says Malhan with a laugh.

Malhan recalls that moment as discovering a closet full of treasure. "The two suitcases were truly treasure chests! Kimonos and obis created with advanced techniques, such as Shibori, Kasuri, and Kyoto-Yuzen, were crammed into suitcases! Most of them had been kept for half a century, had never been worn, and were in pristine condition," says Malhan.

Married to an Indian and an avid saree lover, Malhan sees the similarities that the handlooms of both cultures possess. Through the exhibition Comparative Exhibition of Kimono and Saree: Journey of Textiles between India and Japan, she highlights those similarities. "One of my mother's kimonos had a print which was very similar to Indian ikat. In another example, the pattern on pure silk and indigo-dyed Shibori (tie-dye) is similar to the dancer's top on the mural in Ajanta caves," explains Malhan.

Amid rapid westernisation, Malhan hopes to bring awareness about traditional and Japanese textiles. "Many of my close friends in India are also very interested in the Japanese lifestyle and traditional culture. I strongly wanted these people to see these kimonos. That's why I decided to hold this exhibition. Kimonos, obis, and haoris brought back from Japan will be displayed side by side with sarees made with the same techniques. The purpose of this exhibition is to visually capture the 'connection' between Japan and India," says Malhan, adding that it will be a smallish event at her residence, but with plans to take it forward in the future.

(Kimono and Saree: Journey of Textiles between India and Japan will be happening on Dec 26 and 27, between 11 am and 5 pm in Yelahanka. For details, call 9945845155)

COSY CORNERS

The resurgence of jewel tones, strong reds, and warm neutrals was evident in 2023, say interior designers as Bengalureans experimented with colours that convey friendliness, tranquillity, and empathy instead of sticking to cold greys that characterised the past decade

Eco-friendly spaces saw the most demand in 2023, points out interior designer Roopa Rajgopal

POOJA DAS

REAR VIEW 2023

HOMES always have a character of their own, whether in a novel or real life. They are full of personal nooks and intimate memories that tell a unique story. As we prepare to say goodbye to 2023 and greet the next year with hope for fresh beginnings, let's look at the home decor trends that helped people create their personal stories. "There's a sudden wave of eco-consciousness amongst people, which by default, is making them choose sustainable interior options. A good balance with what's trendy while also retaining old-world charm is most popular and will continue to remain so," says Roopa Rajgopal, who owns a sustainable design studio in the city. She further adds, "While neutral tones and pastel colours are still preferred, bold and warm coloured furnishings like brown and green are some common choices."

Similiarly, Prachi Somani, an interior designer and stylist in the city says, "I could feel the warm '90s neutral return, the raw natural materials reign, maximalism but modern, green being the accent colour choice in most cases; in fact, three of my six designs for 2023 have shades of green as an accent choice of selection." With sustainable decor being the most-loved trend of all, people also took to upcycling and reusing old things for styling their homes.

As sustainable choices become more important for people, the rise of technology also allowed people to make more energy-efficient choices. Somani says, "Surprisingly, I saw a growth in smart homes in 2023-homes where automation and connectivity are incorporated into every part of the architecture, from voice-activated lighting to automated window treatments. Technology is being utilised to create immersive and one-of-a-kind art experiences in homes, some examples of which include projection mapping, digital art installations, and interactive works. The way we approach art and design in our homes will likely continue to evolve as innovation and technology are integrated."

Anu Mehta, co-founder of White Teak, a luxury lighting and home decor brand, notes that while it remains a challenge for many, there is a growing emphasis on sustainability which will keep getting bigger over the coming years. "2023 was absolutely path breaking for interior design and aesthetics, and really pivotal with lighting being recognised as a key player in homes to create ambience and aesthetics. Everybody realised just putting art and expensive furniture is not going to bring your space together," explains Mehta, adding, "We saw a demand for statement lighting, like feathered fixtures and coloured globes, along with a rise in functional, high-quality LED lights." She also adds that people have been more ready to make bolder choices, saying, "The year has also been interesting because it's been minimalism with maximalism. People have come out and embraced what they like."

Somani ties up the mood behind these choices by highlighting that there has been a general consensus in making their spaces cosier following a difficult time during the pandemic years. "The resurgence of jewel tones, strong reds, and warm neutrals was evident in 2023. People are experimenting with colours that convey friendliness, tranquillity, and empathy instead of sticking with the cold greys that characterised the decade. Some of these observations may sound like sound bites from your most recent therapy session, yet the 'it' colours that have grown prevalent in recent years reflect a desire for cosiness, an attachment to nature with everything green."

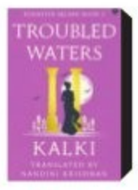
CITY READ

Community service club organises yoga summit

Rotary Bangalore Global Yoga Club, in association with Swami Vivekananda Yoga Research and Holistic Health Trust & Yoga University of the Americas, Miami, Florida, organised the Global Yoga Summit 2023 on Dec 23 and 24 with the theme 'Yoga for Mental Health' at Princess Academy, Palace Grounds. It witnessed participation from academicians, yoga gurus, national and international doctors, vedic experts, and yoga enthusiasts from across 21 countries. Technical and experiential sessions on yoga and holistic health were also conducted.

University launches Japanese-language course with job placement

Bengaluru City University has launched a one-year UG diploma course in the Japanese language for specified skilled workers and professionals. The programme is open to certified healthcare, nursing, and engineering professionals and is endorsed by the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI. It provides guidance and materials, supported by JICA for JOCV native Japanese teachers, and offers scholarships, sponsored by various industries. After the completion of the course, placement support for Japanese companies in India will be provided.



Troubled Waters: Ponniyin Selvan Book 2

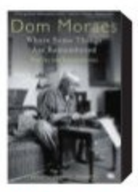
Translated by Nandini Krishnan

As intrigues coil the Chozha Empire, the buck stops with one woman. Why does Nandini wield such power over her influential husband, Pazhuvettaraiyar? Why does the mere mention of her name torment Crown Prince Aditya Karikalan? Find out in a new translation of the classic Tamil novel.

Shooting the Sun

by Nandita Haksar

The human rights lawyer's timely book on Manipur in which she explores with clarity and courage, a complex geopolitical problem, exposing the bankruptcy of identity politics in the state, never losing sight of those that have suffered—and continue to—the most in this conflict.



Where Some Things Are Remembered

By Dom Moraes

The best journalistic writing by one of the finest writers of the 20th century, featuring legendary personalities like Indira Gandhi, Laloo Prasad Yadav, KPS Gill, Namdeo Dhasal, and Mother Teresa.

Tara's Truce

By Kavita Kané

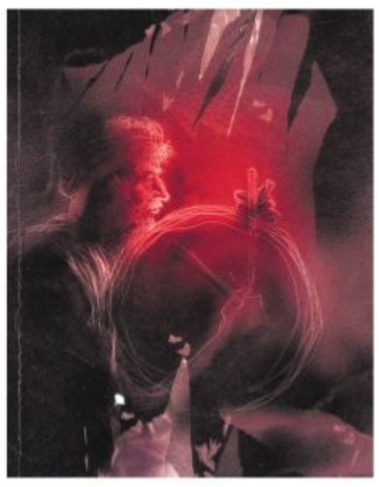
Tara, Vali's wife; Sugriv's queen and the woman behind Rama's curse. Kané narrates the tale of Tara's truce—the compromises Tara made to fulfill her divinely ordained purpose, including marrying her husband's killer.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Jamming Night

Experience an unforgettable evening of sing-alongs with friends and family and create memories to remember for years.

WHEN: Dec 26, 9pm
WHERE: Casa Karaoke, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Theatre Haven

Based on the classic Kannada novel by Jnana Peetha awardee Sivaram Karanth, the play *Chomana Dudi* explores the story of Choma, an untouchable bonded labourer, and the tragedies he faces.

WHEN: Dec 27, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Dance Workshop

Unleash the dancer in you with this private dance class workshop. Dive into a world of rhythm and expression, exploring dance forms like Salsa, Bachata, Jive, East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing, and Tango.

WHEN: Dec 26, 10am
WHERE: LVDS, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Power of Words

Write Out Loud is a celebration of spoken word, uniting poets and enthusiasts to share creative expressions and immerse in the power of words. **WHEN:** Dec 26, 7.30pm
WHERE: Lahe Lahe, Kodihalli
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Narrative Dance

This week, immerse yourself in Kuchipudi Kathanam, an old style of Kuchipudi, presented by the Avanthika Collective. Karthika Madhavi, Souparnika Ganga, and more are featured performers.
WHEN: Dec 27, 6.30pm **WHERE:** Medai - The Stage Bengaluru, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Comedy Night

Watch some of the city's best standup comedians like Shankar Chugani, Shashi Dhiman, Shamik Chakrabarti, and more, perform their best material. **WHEN:** Dec 26, 8.30pm
WHERE: Glens BakeHouse, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

JOY TO THE CITY

Cheerful kids play with balloons at Cubbon Park on Christmas Day | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

PANCAKES

Contributed by **Princy Glady,** Chennai

INGREDIENTS

- **All-purpose flour:** 1 cup
- **White Sugar:** 2 tbsp
- **Baking powder:** 2 tsp
- **Milk:** 1 cup
- **Egg, beaten:** 1
- **Vegetable oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the centre, and pour in milk, oil, and egg. Mix until smooth.
- Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium-high heat. Pour or scoop batter onto the griddle, using approximately 1/4 cup for each pancake.
- Cook until bubbles form and the edges are dry, 1 to 2 minutes. Flip and cook until browned on the other side. Repeat with remaining batter.
- Serve hot and enjoy with nutella or with any good spread.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

ARDHA MARICHYASANA IN ARDHA VAJRASANA

It is called Half Pose dedicated to sage Marichi in Half Thunderbolt Pose, which is one of the beginner level variations of combined Marichi Pose and Vajrasana. The combination of a seated balance position helps the base of the spine to be rooted strongly.

STEPS

- Sit in Dandasana (Staff Pose), remain here for 3-4 breaths.
- Fold your right leg from the knee. Then, fold your left leg and place your heel touching the buttocks.
- Grab your right knee with both the hands.
- Make sure your left knee and left ankle are on the floor.
- Keep your spine and head straight, relaxed and look forward.
- Be careful that your spine does not arch backward.
- Relax the whole body while breathing normally.
- Stay in the pose for at least a minute.
- After that, bring down your hands, relieve your feet, ankles and knees and shake your legs in Dandasana.
- Repeat on the other side by folding the left leg.
- Finally, come back to Dandasana and relax.

BENEFITS

- Stretches hands, hips, thighs, knees, ankles and feet.
- Reduces belly fat and tones muscles.
- Stretches intercostal muscles which improves breathing.
- Stretches and strengthens the abdominal muscles and legs.
- Improves mobility, flexibility, and strength of the spine.
- Corrects the posture of the back.
- Stimulates and soothes the nerves around the spine.
- Improves digestive systems and blood circulation.
- Regulates the functioning of reproductive organs and thyroid gland.
- Relieves piles and stomach disorders.
- Grounding sit bones have an effect on Mooladhara (root), Swadhisthana (sacral) and Manipura (navel) Chakras.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

MARTIN LUTHER KING (Telugu)

A man with no name or identity lands in a powerful position as the single deciding vote in the local polls that can make or break the candidates' fortune.

Cast: Sampoornesh Babu, VK Naresh, Venkatesh Maha, Raghavan, Sharanya

- **Watch on:** SonyLIV

SATHIYA SOTHANAI (Tamil)

Pradeep's goodwill spirals into chaos after he innocently hands over a murder victim's belongings to the police. He gets trapped in the whirlwind of corruption.

Cast: Premgi Amaren, Swayam Siddha, Reshma Pasupuleti

- **Watch on:** SonyLIV

JI-GARTHANDA DOUBLE X (Tamil)

In the 1970s, an unlikely filmmaker teams up with a gangster with a passion for Westerns.

Cast: Raghava Lawrence, SJ Suryah, Nimisha Sajayan

- **Watch on:** Netflix

MISSION START AB (Hindi, series)

Ten startups have been handpicked to fight for the chance to raise money. To be able to do that, they must first make it to the finale.

Cast: Kunal Bahl, Anisha Singh, Manish Chowdary

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

CHAAVER (Malayalam)

Thugs commit a crime, taking an innocent bystander on the run. The police chase them, and moral dilemmas arise among them. Escaping justice, they face life-altering consequences.

Cast: Antony Varghese, Kunchacko Boban, Arjun Ashokan

- **Watch on:** Sony LIV

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

DRY DAY (Hindi)

A satirical comedy that chronicles the efforts of Gannu, a alcoholic, who attempts to ban alcohol in his town.

Cast: Jitendra Kumar, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Annu Kapoor

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

CHITHHA (Tamil)

Eeswaran aka Chithha's world crumbles when his niece goes missing. He sets out on a crusade to find her.

Cast: Siddharth, Baby Sahasra Shree, Baby S Aafiyah Tasneem, Nimisha Sajayan

- **Watch on:** disney+ Hotstar

FOREIGN

THE MOON (Korean)

South Korea's first mission to the moon ends in disaster. Five years later, a second flight leaves astronaut Sun-woo stranded in space.

Cast: Do Kyungsoo, Hong Sung-Hee, Sol Kyung-gu

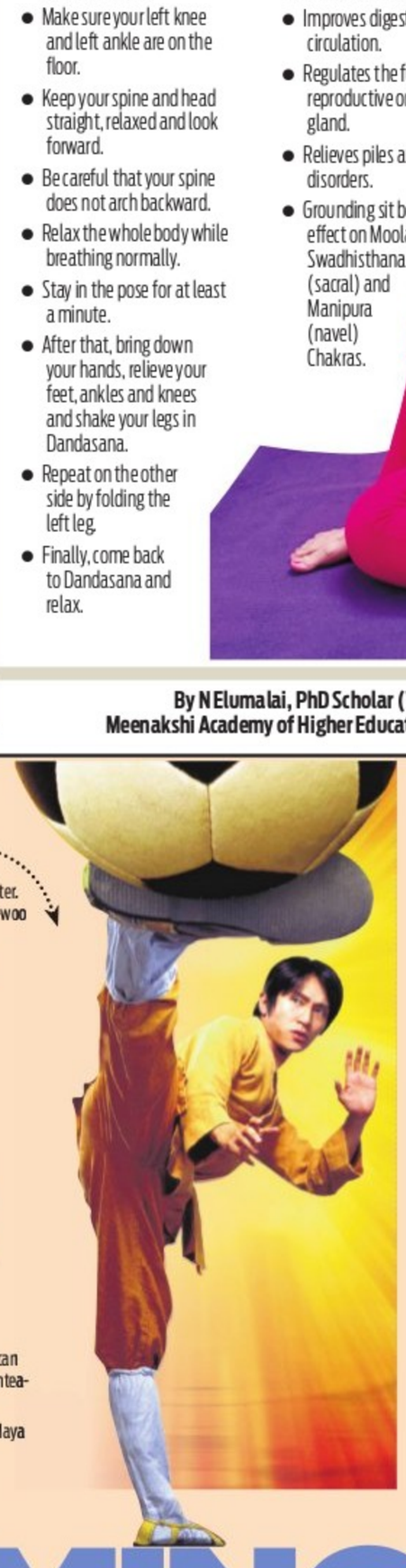
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

MAESTRO (English)

This film centres on the relationship between American composer Leonard Bernstein and his wife Felicia Montealegre.

Cast: Bradley Cooper, Carey Mulligan, Matt Bomer, Maya Hawke

- **Watch On:** Netflix



MERRY LITTLE BATMAN (English)

When young Damian Wayne finds himself alone in Wayne Manor on Christmas Eve, he must transform into 'Little Batman' to defend his home and Gotham City from the crooks.

Cast: Luke Wilson, David Hornsby, Michael Fielding

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

SHAOLIN SOCCER (Chinese)

A former Shaolin monk reunites his brothers, years after their master's death, to apply their martial arts skills to play soccer and bring Shaolin kung fu to the masses.

Cast: Stephen Chow, Ng Man-tat, Zhao Wei

- **Watch On:** Netflix, Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION	
Netflix:	₹199/month
Prime Video:	₹299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹899/year
Zee5:	₹699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹299/month
Aha:	₹699/year
SonyLIV:	₹299/month

12 STORIES THAT MARKED CE'S YEAR

It's been a busy 2023 for Team City Express, bringing you all things B'luru. Here are headliners from an eventful year

JANUARY

THE CITY AND ITS WALL

In this story published on **January 23**, Rahul Dravid – one of India's greatest cricketers and currently the head coach of the national team – spoke to *CE* about the relationship between education and sports, and how they can complement each other. Additionally, he shed light on the growth of the sports industry and how Bengaluru has changed immensely for athletes in a positive way.

FEBRUARY

'ANSWERING PEOPLE WAS MORE TIRING THAN THE WIMBLEDON FINAL'
Tennis maestro Björn Borg and Indian tennis ace Vijay Amritraj, on their visit to B'luru, speak about playing against each other and the nostalgia of tennis in the '70s

LEGENDS OF THE GAME

Swedish tennis maestro Björn Borg and Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj got together for a gathering where they reminisced about the days of yore of them playing against each other and their friendship since the 1970s. We got a taste of tennis nostalgia from two greats of the game in this story which came out on **February 22**.

MARCH

COURTING SUCCESS
The Supreme Court recently deployed an Artificial Intelligence-tool during court proceedings on an experimental basis. Behind it are city-based startup founders who share how the tech can model

AI REVOLUTION IN INDIAN COURTROOM

In a landmark development, the Indian Supreme Court utilised an Artificial Intelligence-based tool from Bengaluru's Nomology Technology for real-time transcription. This historic application occurred during a case involving the Election Commission's decision on the Shiv Sena party symbol and name. In this story published on **March 1**, *CE* highlighted the benefits of real-time transcription in a judicial setting.

APRIL

THE MURDER THAT SHOOK BENGALURU

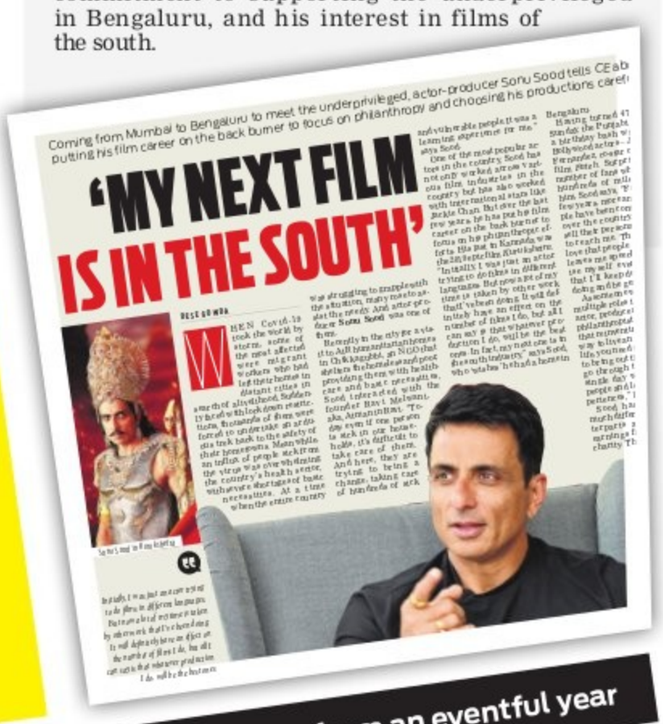
Based on the sensational murder of Shakereh Khaleeli in B'luru in the early '90s, the documentary *Dancing on the Grave* showed original footage and an interview with murderer Murali Manohar Mishra. This story, published on **April 20**, takes you through the timeline of the spine-chilling incident, and the reason why the city still can't get over the murder 30 years on.

JULY

A FRIENDSHIP FORGED IN SCIENCE

Outside of being a renowned physicist who spearheaded the Manhattan Project, who was J Robert Oppenheimer? And what was his relationship with India? Or rather, what was his relationship with a very influential Indian who also happens to be one of Bengaluru's iconic scientific figures of the 20th century? In this story that came out on **July 6**, some light was shed upon the unspoken bond between Homi J Bhabha and Oppenheimer.

AUGUST


'MY NEXT FILM IS IN THE SOUTH'
Coming from Mumbai to Bengaluru to meet the underprivileged, actor-producer Sonu Sood tells CE about putting his film career on the back burner to focus on philanthropy and choosing his productions carefully

STARDOM AND SOCIAL SERVICE

Sonu Sood celebrated his 47th birthday amidst his philanthropic ventures, which have recently taken precedence over his film career. Known for his aid to migrant workers during the Covid-19 pandemic, in this story published on **August 3**, Sood highlighted to *CE* his commitment to supporting the underprivileged in Bengaluru, and his interest in films of the south.

OCTOBER

LIFE IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Ratan Tata's manager Shantanu Naidu on working with the stalwart, channelising the attention he gets for his work, and life off-duty
frankly speaking
Spooktacular Adventures

DODGING THE SPOTLIGHT

Ratan Tata's 30-year-old personal manager Shantanu Naidu usually stays away from the limelight. In an article published on **Oct 31**, Naidu spoke about working with the stalwart, channelising the attention he gets for his work, and life off-duty.

REAR VIEW 2023

SEPTEMBER

POWER COUPLE

India hosted the G20 Summit this year and people could not stop gushing over the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty, who was born and raised in Bengaluru. In the story published on **Sept 11**, prominent Bengalureans who have known the power couple, especially Murty, personally, about what sets them apart from others.

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra, and Anushka Sharma at the Cannes International Film Festival and Alia Bhatt at the Met Gala... This year saw many desi beauties making heads turn with their international presence. Published on **May 31**, experts weighed in on why global luxury brands are showing a keen interest in featuring Indian faces.

MAY

NOVEMBER

UNCOVERING A GENIUS

Three-time National Award-winning documentary filmmaker Nirmal Chander Dandriyal talked about his new documentary *6 Akash Ganga*, which unveiled the enigmatic life of the renowned classical musician and sarbahar player Annapurna Devi, first wife of sitar virtuoso Pt Ravi Shankar. In this story published on **Nov 24**, Dandriyal gave *CE* a behind-the-scenes insight into the making of the documentary, the myths around the maestro's personal life, and more.

SHINING BRIGHT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his visit to the USA, presented Jill Biden, the First Lady of USA, a lab grown 7.5 carat diamond. This story published on **June 26** showed a growing community of Bengalurueans opting for the eco-friendly and pocket-friendly option.

JUNE

DECEMBER

THINKING BIG

He was all praise for Bengaluru when he visited the city recently. Former Reserve Bank of India governor Dr Raghuram G Rajan released his book, *Breaking the Mould*, and delved into reasons why the country is at a crossroads, and the need to bring back top Indian talent from world over. Published on **December 18**, Rajan pointed to part of the problem being the poverty of imagination.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) CHANNAMMA** Spouse of NO. 15304999N EX- SPR PATIL SHANKARA GOUDA, Residing at Nehru Nagar Street, Kundgol (Vill), Kundgol (Post & Taluk), Dharwad (Dist), KARNATAKA (State), PIN:581113, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) CHANNAMMA SHANKARGOUDA PATIL, And DOB From 15.06.1974 to 05.02.1973** Vide Affidavit Dated 21.12.2023 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAHESH R.M,** S/o. Mayanna Gowda, aged about 41 years, residing at No.202, 2d Floor, Magan Mahal Residency, 10th Cross Swimming Pool Extension, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003, I have changed my daughter name from **"CHINMAYI.M."** to **"DEVIKA MAHESH."** Affidavit **Dated: 20/12/2023** sworn to before **Smt.A.Manjula,** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SIVAKRISHNA G,** Son of NO. JC- 312403L EX-SUB GOPAKUMAR.S, Residing at Punatham House, Aruvikara (Vill), Cheriyakonni (Post), Nedumangad (Tehsil), Thiruvananthapuram (Dist), KERALA (State), PIN : 695013, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) SHIVAKRISHNA** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.12.2023 Sworn Before Notary S.I.BALAGURU BANGALORE.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr.Girish Gupta H.S, S/o. Lachaiahshetty Satyanarayanagupta, aged about 59 years @ #118, 42nd Cross Road, 8th Block Jayanagar, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560070, I have changed my name from **'GIRISHA GUPTA HEBBUR SATYANARAYANA'** to **'GIRISH GUPTA HEBBUR SATYANARAYANA'.** Vide affidavit dated 23.12.2023, Sworn before Advocate & Notary Rashmi Patel, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) M SHANMUGA LAKSHMI** Spouse of NO. JC- 311331A SUB MAJ RAMAMOORTHI.M, Residing at House NO.9/66, Centre Street, Malaalagunatchiapuram (Vill & Post), Sankarankovil (Taluk), Tirunelveli (Dist), TAMIL NADU (State), PIN: 627754, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) R SHANMUGA LAKSHMI** Vide Affidavit Dated 19.12.2023 Sworn Before Notary S.I. BALAGURU BANGALORE.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **RAMAKRISHNAIAH K T** S/o Late K C Thopaiah, aged about 58 years, residing at #527, 11th Cross, 5th Main, NGEF Layout, Mallathahalli, Bangalore- 560056, do hereby declare that both the names that is **RAMAKRISHNAIAH K T** and **RAMAKRISHNA K T** belongs to me only. Vide affidavit dated 23.12.2023 sworn to before K.C. Shashikala, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SERVICE NO. 15326938W HAV P. RAMALINGA REDDY, Residing at Kammireddygaripalli (Vill), Gorantlapalli (Post), K V Palli (Tehsil), Chittoor (Dist), ANDHRA PRADESH (State), PIN: 517213, Have Changed My Daughter Name **(OLD NAME) P. BHUVANASREE** to **(NEW NAME) PEDDIREDDY BHUVANASREE,** And **DOB** From **06.09.2011** to **07.09.2011,** Vide Affidavit Dated 22.12.2023 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NISHKALA.P,** W/o K.V. Mahesh, R/at No.86, Durga Nilaya, 3rd Main, 5th Cross, Kempegowda Layout, Sukramariyamma Temple Road, Laggere, Bangalore-560 058, hereby declare that i have changed my name to **NISHKALA.** Vide affidavit dated: 22-12-2023, sworn before Notary D.G.Shanthappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) RAGHUNATH MARIYAPPA** S/o Mariyappa, residing at No. 340/2, Janatha Colony, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru -560056, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) RAGHUNATH MARIYAPPA** to **(NEW NAME) RAGHUNATHA MARIYAPPA** vide affidavit dated 25.12.2023 sworn before Notary S.Eswara Reddy Bangalore.

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

'HEROINES AREN'T CONFINED TO STEREOTYPICAL ROLES ANYMORE'

Debutant Aradhanaa, daughter of superstar Malashree, shares about her debut in the Darshan starrer *Kaatera*, directed by Tharun Kishore Sudhir, and the advice she received from her mother and fellow actors on the set, and going forward

WITH ARADHANAA, I'M BECOMING AN ACTOR ALL OVER AGAIN: MALASHREE

Malashree, who still maintains the Lady Superstar status in Kannada, is riding high on emotions ahead of her daughter Aradhanaa's debut vehicle, Kaatera, hitting screens on December 29. "When I did *Nanjundi Kalyana*, I didn't realise the impact of my performance. I didn't feel anything in my heart; I just did the shoot and left. Suddenly, I was told the film was a blockbuster hit, but I didn't know how to enjoy that success. But today, with my daughter's debut, there's fear, and I'm praying to all the gods. I want to see that success in my daughter. I haven't watched the film yet and want to experience it as an audience. I saw her first performance on stage at the pre-release event, and I was so happy; I knew she was getting ready," says Malashree, who is very anxious about the release. "I want all our dreams to come true." Malashree, with over 140 films in multiple languages under her belt, says she took time to gain recognition. However, with *Kaatera* and Darshan in the picture, her daughter received that recognition right in her first film. "More than Malashree's daughter, she's now called 'DBoss Queen.' She has a lot of challenges to face and many more to look forward to," says Malashree, who gives her share of advice to Aradhanaa. "The first lesson is handling criticism. More critics and more gossip mean growth, and she needs to take it positively. Success is a learning step; it shouldn't get to her head, and that's something I've advised her." The actor, who was on set with her daughter Aradhanaa, feels like returning to acting. "Sitting through the day, I'm tired, but I've learned patience. Moreover, when I see her perform, I'm emoting from my place, foot-tapping to the steps when she's doing the song sequences. With her, I'm becoming an actor all over again."

AS the daughter of popular Kannada actor Malashree, known as the Lady Superstar, Aradhanaa has been significantly influenced by her mother in approaching acting as a career. Making her debut with *Kaatera*, Aradhanaa has no qualms admitting the influence of her superstar mother. Reacting to the overwhelming response the film is receiving even before its release on December 29, Aradhanaa says, "It's new to me. I never saw this level of excitement around my mother during her peak too. It's like they're cheering for someone else. Seeing sold-out tickets, millions of song views, and oceans of fans rallying for Darshan sir is beyond amazing."

Aradhanaa also credits her father, Ramu, a noted producer and distributor, for influencing her acting aspirations. "My mother has influenced every aspect of my work—the dedication, respect, seriousness, and the importance of keeping things light-hearted when required. My father's insights as a producer and distributor taught me about the immense effort behind filmmaking, and how it is more than just a job. He often said it's about creating an entire world and entertaining the audience."

Coming from a film family where conversations invariably revolved around cinema, Aradhanaa reveals that her love for acting was nurtured by her family's love for movies. "I took the idea seriously around 12 or 13. I realised that acting was my true passion. Even though I was shy initially, I did imagine seeing myself on screen. I think the passion was always there from the start, and the ignition just manifested later," she recalls.

Sharing how *Kaatera* became her launchpad, Aradhanaa says, "This came up during a conversation between producer Rockline Venkatesh and my mother. Once it was mentioned, I couldn't resist. I always wanted to be an actor, especially someone who can pull off challenging roles. The opportunity to start with a big film that had diverse layers, alongside Darshan, was incredibly motivating. I couldn't have refused such a well-fitted role, particularly a strong female character brimming with richness."

Despite her earlier experiences as a child artist in films like *Kiran Bedi, Veera* and *Shakti* alongside her mother, stepping in front of the camera as a lead actor was a different experience for Aradhanaa. "I was mentally prepared and not overwhelmed. I had numerous discussions with director Tharun Kishore Sudhir, asking about camera angles, technical aspects, and what to focus on. Yet, once you're on set, surrounded by actors, you just have to face the camera. I mentally disregarded its presence and simply focused on acting," she reflects.

The actor discussed her approach and preparations for her role in *Kaatera*. "There is no room for frivolity in the film, and my character. Tharun stressed that this was a significant launch for me, and I had to meet certain expectations. I underwent a workshop for over two weeks before commencing shooting. That was one aspect of preparation. Regarding appearance, I went through numerous trials and look tests to finalise the character's appearance. I had extensive discussions with my mom, who mentally prepared me for the role and clarified what I should bring to the table. This significantly eased my job and provided clarity," shares Aradhanaa, offering insights into her role. "Her name is Prabhavathi, an educated girl in the village, known for her strong voice that she uses to aid people and disseminate knowledge. Alongside that, she's a bit mischievous, stubborn, and sensitive. She discerns right from wrong and stands up for it. In the movie, I share screen space with Darshan and other actors, and every scene unfolds new layers. Importantly, she holds a crucial presence in the film that demands to be experienced in theaters, witnessing the audience's reaction."

Aradhanaa agrees that there were moments when she felt jittery when working alongside a superstar like Darshan. "I was very intimidated when I was around a massive star like Darshan. However, once the work began in that professional setup, he provided that space and understood the pressure I was under due to my background and the responsibility of the opportunity. He was very supportive and empathetic,' shares Aradhana, adding, "The comfort didn't just come from his words; it was the vibe he created on set. He made it relaxing and comfortable."

Coming from a film background, there's obvious pressure and expectations due to the family's industry connections. "I'm trying to focus on the positives. I've been given the opportunity, and I'm prepared to do my best. Kaatera helped kickstart my journey, and I'm working doubly hard to uphold their name and status in the industry. I've always wanted to be an actor, and I'm grateful for where I come from. Concentrating on the positives has made the opportunity and the love I've received make things easier," she says.

In aiming to carve her path and establish an identity, she realises that not all well-laid plans have to be successful. "I try to keep faith that whatever I'm planning or strategising, there's something better in store for me. I'm now waiting for *Kaatera* to release and take forward my plans. All I want are good films, with the best actors and directors, whatever comes my way," she says.

Talking about multilingual films, the actor feels there's nothing like a purely regional movie. "The Indian industry has become unified. Movies made in one state are watched all over. I'm grateful to enter the industry at a time when there's more work to do. When it comes to multilingual films, I'm open to it. We've seen great success in the Kannada industry due to pan-India cinema," says Aradhanaa, who understands the evolution in the kind of roles being offered to actors nowadays. "Heroines aren't confined to stereotypical roles anymore. We have so many genres being explored in our cinema. My dream role is simply being an actor."

Aradhanaa mentions the generous advice she's received from everyone ahead of her big debut. "My mother has always instilled in me the importance of passion in what I do. She often says that if we don't love our work, the performance won't come our right. She emphasised the need to be well-prepared but also have fun. She's guided me on various aspects like voice modulation, song shoots, etc... My dad stressed the importance of discipline, and how nothing can replace the importance of hardwork. Darshan sir advised me daily, focusing on the technical side and always said, 'Keep giving your best.' Tharun sir spoke about the importance of being prepared. There's a whole book of advice from the *Kaatera* school," she says.

As for what the audience will take away from *Kaatera*, Aradhanaa hopes they connect with the character and story, especially the fighting nature that has inspired her and boosted her confidence. "Especially to women of my age, don't let your education, dreams, and belief system get affected. People will be surprised and shocked by Darshan sir's portrayal in *Kaatera*. I've never seen him in such a character. The film showcases versatility and sensitivity, touching upon the importance of farmers' struggles. The entire cast and crew have put in tremendous effort. It's a heart-touching subject; everyone's efforts are visible. I'm sure the audience will be emotionally moved while enjoying a commercial mass entertainer," she signs off.

ALLU ARJUN TO WORK NEXT WITH ATLEE?

WE had previously reported that Allu Arjun might be making a cameo appearance in Jawan. While those reports have proven to be unfounded, new reports that have surfaced the internet months after the release of Jawan, suggest that Allu Arjun might be working next with Atlee in a film that will feature the former in a lead role.

It has also been speculated that Anirudh Ravichander will be roped into the project to compose music. Anirudh, who has recently made waves with his work in Jailer and Leo, is also the music director of Jr NTRâ ™s Devara, which will be hitting theatres on April 5, 2024.

Allu Arjun currently has Pushpa: The Rule, the much awaited sequel of the 2021 action-drama film *Pushpa: The Rise* coming up for release. The makers of *Pushpa: The Rule* have announced that they will be releasing that film on August 15, 2024. If sources are to be believed, Allu Arjun might start working on his film with Atlee after the release of Pushpa: The Rise.

Allu Arjun has also announced that he will be working next with Sandeep Reddy Vanga in a film co-produced by T-Series and Vangaâ ™s home banner Bhadrakali Pictures. Allu Arjun is also in talks to reunite with his Julayi and Son of Satyamurthy director Trivikram for a project, which is expected to go on floors post the release of Trivikramâ ™s Guntur Kaaram.

Dave Chappelle's *The Dreamer* to release on New Year's Eve

COMEDIAN-actor Dave Chappelle has announced that his new comedy special will be releasing on Netflix this New Year's Eve. Titled *The Dreamer,* the special was announced with a teaser featuring veteran actor Morgan Freeman's voice-over.

The comedy special was filmed at the historic Lincoln Theater in Washington DC. Stan Lathan, who directed all the seven Netflix specials of Dave Chappelle, has also directed The Dreamer. Chappelle's Netflix specials Sticks and Stones (2019) and Equanimity and The Bird Revelation have both received a total of three Emmy Awards. He also received a fifth Grammy nomination for his Netflix special, What's in a Name. The stand-up comedian last appeared in a guest role in Bradley Cooper's A Star Is Born. Chappelle received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humour in 2019.

THE much-hyped film *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire*, starring Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead roles, was released in theatres on December 22. The film, directed by Prashanth Neel, earned Rs 178.7 crores on its first day of release, breaking the record of other significant Indian films, including *Animal, Pathaan, Jawan, Leo, Jailer*, and *Master.* This makes it the only Indian film to achieve this feat. Within three days of its release, the film has grossed Rs 402 crores at the global box office.

The film, produced by Hombale Films, also stars Shruti Haasan, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Easwari Rao, Sriya Reddy, Jagapathi Babu, Madhu Guruswamy, Ramachandra Raju, Garuda Ram, and Tinnu Anand, among others.

Salaar: Part 1- Ceasefire is a Kannada-Telugu bilingual, with simultaneous releases in Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam as well. Ravi Basrur composed the film's music, with cinematography by Bhuvan Gowda, editing by Ujwal Kulkarni and production design by Shivakumar and TL Venkatachalapathi.